

INTERNATIONAL

British MPs oppose death sentence

LONDON, June 8, (AP): The House of Commons voted by a wide margin last night against restoring the death penalty, which was officially abolished in Britain in 1969.

By a 341 to 218 vote, lawmakers defeated a resolution that would have empowered juries to recommend capital punishment for any crime.

It was the eighth failure to reinstate the death penalty in 19 years. Most of the other attempts would have allowed imposition of the death penalty for specific crimes, such as murder.

All parties in the 650-member Commons allowed their members a free vote, and loud cheers filled the packed chamber when the result was announced after a 4-1/2-hour debate.

Roger Gale, a member of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party who launched the latest bid to restore the death penalty, argued that it would deter would-be murderers.

If the proposed amendment to the government's criminal justice bill "were to have saved one life,

that would be worth the risk," Gale said. "I do not seek vengeance. I do not seek punishment. I seek solely a deterrent."

But Home Secretary Douglas Hurd criticised death penalty advocates who "take a remarkably broad brush approach to a power of life and death."

"The way to deal with violent crime is by strengthening the police, stiffening sentences, building prisons and, equally important, by reinforcing the self-confidence of all those who influence, or should influence, the young in this country away from violence," Hurd said.

Mrs Thatcher voted in favour of the death-penalty amendment. The current drive to reinstate the death penalty got momentum from a newspaper survey in February. The survey showed that 43 of the 53 Conservative Members of Parliament elected for the first time in the June 1987 election favoured the return of hanging, the traditional British form of execution, for premeditated murder.

Confident to become next US President

Dukakis wins last primaries

LOS ANGELES, June 8, (Reuters): Michael Dukakis, assured of the Democratic nomination after big wins in his party's final primary votes, looked confidently ahead today to becoming the next President of the United States.

Within hours of locking up the nomination, Dukakis, 54, made clear his main targets now were vice-presidents — bow to beat the Republican nominee, Vice-President George Bush, and who to select as his own running mate. Dukakis scored solid victories in the last of the year's primary elections on Tuesday, picking up enough delegates to ensure his nomination at next month's Democratic convention in Atlanta.

Dream
The Massachusetts governor beat his only remaining Democratic challenger, black civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, in California, New Jersey, Montana and New Mexico, and said in a victory speech in Los Angeles he was ready to win the US presidential election in November.

"My friends, we do not need a better dream for this country. We have the best there is. What we need now is the best president for the American dream," Dukakis said.

NBC News reported that Dukakis had 2,124 delegate votes, 43 more than he needs to win the party's nomination.

Dukakis was asked several times if Jackson, the first black to mount a serious campaign for the presidency, would be considered for the vice-presidential spot on his ticket.

"I'm not going to rule anybody in or out," Dukakis said. But he hinted that Jackson may not be his first choice.

"Jesse's worked hard. He's demonstrated very strong leadership. There are other good people in the party as well."

A jazz band blared "when the saints go marching in," a mass of red, white and blue balloons floated down from the ceiling of the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, and supporters waved US flags as Dukakis marched in after his victory last night.

His wife, Kitty, recovering in Boston from a neck operation to remove damaged spinal discs, came on the telephone to give her congratulations.

On the press plane on the last day of his campaign, Reuter correspondent Ronald Clarke reported that Dukakis strolled along the aisle chatting to reporters who had been with him throughout his primary campaign, seemingly without a care in the world.

Honest
Supporters described him as hard working, honest, a calm technocrat, a skilled administrator. Opponents call him conceited, over-confident, knowing little outside his role as Governor of Massachusetts.

"I know I speak with pride for every American when I speak about this race," he told his victory audience.

A son of immigrants from Massachusetts and a black man who grew up poor in South Carolina are the two finalists for the Democratic nomination for the presidency of the United States.

"Only in America could that happen — and only in the Democratic Party."

Despite being trounced by Dukakis, Jackson was not bowed.

"We've removed the ceilings above our dreams," he said. "I congratulate Governor Dukakis on winning a campaign of dignity," Jackson said. "It was a well-managed, dignified campaign. It avoided media demagoguery."

Jackson was beaten by at least two-to-one margins in all of the final state votes. NBC said he finished the primaries with 1,009 delegates.

Jackson has vowed to stay in the race in order to influence the party's policy platform. He has threatened a convention floor fight over his demand that the party should label South Africa as a terrorist state because of its policy of apartheid.

Bush, who ran unopposed in the primaries and is certain to get the Republican Party's nomination at its convention in New Orleans in August, hit out at Dukakis during a party rally in



Dukakis: victory

Southern California's conservative Orange County.

He said the recent US-Soviet arms control agreement would not have been signed in Moscow if Dukakis had been President. Bush ridiculed Dukakis as a naive supporter of a unilateral nuclear arms freeze.

"If we had listened to Michael Dukakis and that Massachusetts crowd on the freeze we would not have had an arms control agreement that offers hope of peace," Bush said.

Recent nationwide opinion polls show Bush lagging as much as 15 points behind Dukakis.

Bush acknowledged he was entering the five-month general election campaign as the underdog in the polls.

Support for PLO

(Continued from Page 1)

agreed to adopt the Palestinian uprising as the main and only subject to be discussed at the summit.

Klibi, however, said the summit will provide the opportunity for the Arab countries to exchange views on other issues but without endorsing resolutions toward them.

Status

The PLO looks certain to regain its status as the deciding voice on how Arabs should respond to any Middle East peace plan.

Delegates at the summit said today even states which earlier claimed a stake in Middle East peacemaking were falling in behind the PLO's leadership.

"The Palestinians will get most of what they want, there's no doubt about it," said a delegate from Jordan, which at the last Arab meeting in Amman led moves to keep the organisation out of the limelight.

A PLO spokesman said the 21 delegations had already backed in principle the PLO vision of what to insist on if the uprising forced the Israeli government to join the Arabs at the conference table.

This would include PLO representation on an equal basis with other delegations, a legally binding framework and an independent Palestinian state as the eventual outcome.

Khaddafi

Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi created an uproar at the Arab summit today, accusing unnamed Arab leaders of being "lackeys of imperialism," conference sources reported.

Klibi described the session as "stormy." He declined to give details.

The summit's opening session yesterday was marked by an Iranian walkout and by emotional expressions of support for the Palestinian uprising from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Jordan's King Hussein.

Iran's Ambassador Zargar Yaghoubi abruptly rose from his seat in the diplomats' section and walked out of the hall during an address by Klibi, who referred to the Gulf war and praised Iraq for its recent victories.

Troops held

NAIROBI, June 8, (AP): Uganda military police are holding 700 Army officers and soldiers after a mutiny at two barracks near Kampala in an abortive attempt to assassinate President Yoweri Museveni, Ugandan military sources said today.

Taba verdict

GENEVA, June 8, (Reuters): A dispute between Israel and Egypt over the tiny Red Sea beachfront of Taba will be decided by arbitration by September, a Swiss member of the international arbitration tribunal said today.

Fiji minister released

SUVA, Fiji, June 8, (AP): Former Foreign Minister Krishna Datt was released from custody today after two days of questioning about arms smuggled into the South Pacific nation.

Datt, who was foreign minister in the government ousted in a coup 13 months ago, was one of about 50 people rounded up after police this week seized weapons including rocket-launchers, bayonets, machineguns and

Soviet-made AK-47 rifles.

Fifteen people have been charged with conspiring to illegally import the weapons. Among those charged is Ratu Moese Tuisawau, brother-in-law of interim Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara.

Authorities said the weapons were of the same sort as a shipment intercepted last week in Australia en route from North Yemen to Fiji.

Presley jewellery sold in auction

NEW YORK, June 8, (AP): Thirty-one pieces of jewellery which Elvis Presley gave to a former girlfriend were sold at an auction that drew fans and collectors from throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

The jewellery — which included lavish gold pendants, and rings and bracelets made of diamonds, emeralds or opals — fetched a total of \$82,000, surpassing its presale estimate of \$50,000.

Many pieces sold for two to 10 times the estimate, said Robin Ahrens, spokeswoman for Christie's, the auctioneer.

An unidentified lawyer purchased nine items for a total of \$28,000. They included a 22-carat opal and diamond ring which sold for \$4,400. The ring was a gift from Presley to the unidentified woman in 1974. The entertainer believed opals possessed a magical quality, said Mrs Ahrens.

Two more die in S. African violence

Blacks continue strike

JOHANNESBURG, June 8, (AP): More than one million black workers and students reportedly stayed home today, the third day of a national protest strike against pending labour legislation.

In strike-related violence, a baby was fatally shot and a man was hacked to death, police said today.

The nation's largest black union group, one of the organisers of the three-day protest, said it would consider meeting with the government's manpower chief to discuss the labour bill that sparked the general strike — reportedly the longest in the country's history.

Figures from government and private transport companies and employers indicated the black workforce attendance in the Johannesburg-Pretoria area was half of normal, while 90 per cent

of black workers stayed home in Durban.

The private Putco Bus Company said ridership from black townships east of Johannesburg was 98 per cent below normal and 40 per cent below average from Soweto, the country's largest black township.

The government railroad service said passenger loads were about 30 per cent of capacity. Commuter loads in northern Transvaal and in Cape province were 90 per cent to 100 per cent normal, government and private transport companies said.

Police reported two deaths, 25 arrests, and 15 injuries in 22 incidents of violence until this morning.

A train engine and freight car were derailed near Johannesburg, and buses, private trucks, police vehicles and homes were firebombed and stoned in several

townships in Natal and Transvaal province, police said.

They reported a 22-year-old man was hacked to death with a machete in Hammarsdale, in Natal, and a 2-year-old baby was found dead with a shotgun wound in his chest in Ashdown, also in Natal. Police said a group of blacks killed the man after setting homes on fire, but they gave no further details about the death of the baby.

Police reported using shotgun fire, tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse crowds in Natal, where groups who oppose the strike have clashed with militant protest supporters.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) called on employers to participate in an independent inquiry into the effects of the labour bill, which all black unions have opposed.

Toxic waste

BEIRUT, June 8, (Reuters): A Lebanese Christian militia said today it had asked Italy to take back a cargo of toxic chemical waste dumped near Beirut.

Kassab Nasr, leader of the relations of the Lebanese Forces militia, told a news conference the group had detained the importer of the 22 tonnes of chemicals found on waste ground at Ghazir, 25 km north of the capital.

Appetite

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 8, (Reuters): An ailing Brazilian parrot has regained its appetite after a dentist fitted it with a plastic beak.

US students very weak in maths

WASHINGTON, June 8, (AP):

A government-sponsored study has concluded that American students are doing miserably in maths, and experts laid some of the blame on the redundant, slow-paced way maths is taught in most US schools.

The national assessment of educational progress reported that almost half the 17-year-old students tested in 1985-86 proved incapable of handling maths commonly taught to younger students, and nearly 27 per cent of 13-year-olds were stumped by basic computations.

"Our ninth graders are taking what other peoples' seventh graders are taking," Chester Finn Jr, the Assistant US Secretary of Education for Research and Improvement, told a news conference.

"We've got to get it going faster, repeated less and make sure that it's learned more."

The study was based on exams given to nearly 15,000 students ages 9, 13 and 17 in 1985-86. It was the fourth national assessment in maths since 1972-73.

The study, "the mathematics report card: are we measuring up," said all three age groups made modest improvements in recent years, but mostly on low-order skills. Fewer were capable of advanced work in 1986 than in 1978.

"Despite signs of their progress across time, the 1986 performance of 17-year-old students was dismal," the report said.

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INTERNATIONAL

ed Army man expelled

MANILA, June 8, (Reuters): The Philippines today deported to Tokyo an alleged member of the Japanese Red Army accused of involvement in the hijacking of a Japanese airliner in Bangladesh 1977.

Hiroshi Sensui, 51, was put under heavy guard aboard a scheduled Japan Air Lines flight to Tokyo.

The Japanese embassy had asked for his deportation to face specified charges.

Sensui was freed from a Japanese prison in September 1977 in exchange for the release of 156 hostages held on Japan Air Lines craft hijacked by the Japanese Red Army in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

He had been serving a life sentence for burglary and murder since April 1961.

The Philippine news agency said Sensui entered the Philippines in May 1984 posing as a businessman.

He was detained with his wife at a hotel in Manila on Tuesday and taken to an Army camp. Military intelligence sources said he was handcuffed to his bed to prevent a suicide bid.

Five killed in Sri Lanka poll violence

COLOMBO, June 8, (AP): The government has dispatched at least 20,000 soldiers and police to Sri Lanka's southern province to maintain order during district council elections this week, police said today.

They said pre-poll violence had claimed five lives.

The government also said it would curtail bus and rail services in the province during Thursday's voting. Sinhalese nationalists opposed to the councils attacked government buildings, buses and trains during elections in two other provinces last week.

On Tuesday, Sinhalese radicals killed at least three people in the southern province, and police fatally shot two radicals, a statement from police headquarters in Colombo said. It gave no details.

The government agreed to set up the councils and grant them limited autonomy under an Indian-brokered peace plan to end the Tamil insurgency. But Tamil separatists reneged on the July 29 accord and have continued fighting.

Militant Sinhalese also opposed the creation of councils, charging they will increase regional secessions on the island republic and grant too much power to the Tamils.

The Sinhalese People's Liberation Front has threatened to kill people who vote Thursday, residents of the southern province said in telephone interviews.

The residents, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the front had told people to stay home for 12 hours on Thursday.

One-fourth of Soviet troops have left Afghanistan, says Najib

Pakistan warned of retaliation

UNITED NATIONS, June 8, (AP): Afghan President Najib, in his first speech to the United Nations, said that one-quarter of the Soviet Union's troops have been withdrawn from his country but warned Pakistan to stop arming anti-government insurgents.

"If the Pakistani side does not adopt appropriate measures to end interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan from its territory," Najib said, "Afghanistan reserves its right to react to this in a manner warranted by the situation." He did not elaborate.

He accused Pakistani authorities and armed extremists of hindering the voluntary return of Afghan refugees to their homeland.

Such actions are sheer violations of the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords and an affront to the United Nations," said Najib, speaking in the Dari language.

Soviet officials have said the Soviet withdrawal of its 115,000 troops, which began on May 15, could be slowed if Pakistan does not honour the Geneva accords which call for non-interference and a nine-month Soviet troop

pullout. One-quarter of the troops would be about 28,700.

"They, in Islamabad, will be gravely mistaken," Najib said, "should they think that only one part of the Geneva accords—the return of the Soviet troops—will be implemented and the other parties will not live up to their commitments."

Najib, in a bid to win legitimacy for his embattled government, delivered a 30-minute speech to a special General Assembly session on disarmament and devoted a major part of his speech to the situation in Afghanistan.

He again called for national reconciliation and establishment of a coalition government, including opposition forces.

Guarantee

He also called on the international community, lending institutions and the United Nations to contribute to economic reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

Pakistan and the United States have opposed international aid at this time, saying the appeal is premature until Soviet troops have departed. Pakistan has called the appeal an attempt to

legitimise a government which is not supported by key segments of the Afghan community at home and abroad.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was present in the assembly hall to hear Najib's speech. But the United States, which does not recognise the Afghan government, did not send an ambassador. Instead, the mission sent Anne Morning, a young foreign service intern, to sit alone at the US table and listen to the speech.

The Geneva accords were negotiated by the United Nations and signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan. Both pledged non-interference in each other's internal affairs. The United States, which has armed Afghan rebels with Pakistan, and the Soviet Union, which supports the Kabul government, signed the agreement as guarantors.

The question of interference and continued aid to the Afghan resistance groups appears to pose a serious problem to smooth implementation of the agreement.

"Afghanistan shall sincerely and faithfully abide by its obligations stemming from the

accords," Najib said. "Any action aimed at playing down or ignoring the Geneva agreements will damage the successful implementation of the accords and will jeopardise peace, security and stability in the region."

Assault

Meanwhile, the Afghan government has recently reinforced its garrison at Jalalabad, which guards the eastern approaches to Kabul, Afghan guerrillas said.

The guerrillas, speaking from the Pakistani border town of Peshawar, said 15,000 government troops now defended the city, and that four infantry regiments, a rocket brigade and an artillery regiment had been sent in.

They said the government feared an imminent, large-scale guerrilla assault on the city.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, chairman of the seven-party guerrilla alliance, has promised an attack sometime this month.

Other guerrillas dismissed the promise as bluster and said the rebels had neither the desire nor the equipment to mount an assault which would cost many lives.



A student smashes a car window by kicking during street violence in Dhaka. (Reuters wirephoto)

Dhaka students riot over Islamisation

DHAKA, June 8, (Reuters): At least five students were injured today when police tried to end protests against Islam being proclaimed the state religion of Bangladesh, witnesses said.

Street fights broke out when riot police used truncheons in an attempt to disperse an estimated 2,000 Dhaka University students demonstrating near the government secretariat.

The demonstrators chanted demands for the repeal of a constitutional amendment approved by parliament on Tuesday that gave official recognition to Islam.

Witnesses said the students damaged at least 20 vehicles during the protests.

Police said no one was arrested.

About 3,000 politicians, workers and students staged noisy demonstrations soon after the controversial amendment was approved.

They set three vehicles ablaze and damaged several others.

Opposition leaders including Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh Nationalist Party chairman Begum

Khaleda Zia denounced the bill as an attempt to fool the people and divert their attention from economic and other problems.

They also said the move could give rise to fundamentalism and jeopardise communal harmony.

Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed said giving Islam its due status in a country with 90 per cent of the 105 million people were Muslims would give the nation a new identity.

"We are not snatching away fundamental rights of Hindus, Christians and Buddhists in our country. Equality before law has been ensured for all citizens," he told parliament.

Nirmal Sen, head of the alliance of five parties said: "The law, which will divide the nation between Muslims and non-Muslims, will have far-reaching, unfortunate impact on the national life... we shall continue our agitation against the law."

But Syed Deedar Bakht, the Jatiya whip in parliament, said the law would "ensure communal harmony" and "encourage the non-Muslims to follow their faiths in total freedom."

Woman weds photograph of Indira's assassin

NEW DELHI, June 8, (AP): A 23-year-old Sikh woman overcame family opposition and married Satwant Singh, convicted of assassinating former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, a newspaper reported today.

But Singh, in jail facing execution, could not attend the ceremony, so The Statesman newspaper said Surinder Kaur was married May 2 to a photograph of Singh in a village in Punjab state.

The two were engaged in 1983 and fixed their wedding date for September 1984. However the marriage was postponed because Singh, a constable in the capital's police force, could not get leave, it said.

Sing was assigned to the Prime Minister's security guard in 1984. On Oct 31, 1984, he and another Sikh bodyguard shot Mrs Gandhi in the garden of her residence in the capital.

Sing, now 25, was convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged. The sentence was confirmed by New Delhi's high court but an appeal is pending before the Supreme Court.

The Statesman said Surinder Kaur went through the marriage ceremony despite opposition from her parents and Singh's parents.

Threat

"I tried everything I could do to stop her," Kaur's father, Wirs Singh, told the newspaper. But the parents yielded after Kaur threatened to commit suicide if she was not allowed to marry her fiancé.

The marriage rites were performed by a Sikh priest, the newspaper said. Kaur garlanded a photograph of Satwant Singh carried it around a fire seven times, in a bizarre version of an orthodox Sikh wedding ceremony, it said.

There was no word on whether the ceremony had legal or religious sanction.

Santwant Singh was informed of his marriage two weeks later when his parents visited him at New Delhi's central jail, the paper said. It did not report his reaction.

Police thwart protest march

Beijing warns students

BEIJING, June 8, (AP): Police cordoned off Tiananmen Square in the heart of Beijing today to thwart a planned pro-democracy demonstration by university students, but by late afternoon the proposed rally appeared to have fizzled.

The police action came as Beijing authorities and official newspapers warned students that the march from Beijing University to Tiananmen was illegal and would undermine the stability needed to carry out economic and political reform.

Students at China's most prestigious university gathered around posters calling for democracy, human rights and better conditions for underpaid intellectuals, but there was no attempt to organise a march. The students' mood was subdued and wary. Many said they would not participate.

At Tiananmen, hundreds of

police stood at attention about 15 metres apart along the perimeter of the 40-hectare square, the symbolic political centre of China.

Police reinforcements and vehicles also were positioned along side streets around the square, which is flanked by the Great Hall of the People, Mao Tse-tung's mausoleum, the National Revolutionary Museum and the old Imperial Palace.

Tourists who ordinarily stroll through the square were ordered out and milled around outside, curious to see what might take place.

Police, when asked about the closure, responded, "we have a special activity" or "I'm not sure."

A few students sat in small groups on the sidewalk, refusing to talk to reporters.

The proposed 16-kilometre

march from the campus to the square would have been the first major political protest by students since nationwide student unrest in the winter of 1986-87.

That spasm of opposition to government policies led to a heavy-handed campaign against liberal ideas and the ouster of then-Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang for failing to take quick action to quell the disturbances.

The current unrest was prompted by the June 2 murder of a Beijing University student in an off-campus brawl. Six non-students were arrested for the crime when police moved quickly to satisfy student demands that the assailants be brought to justice.

But, the protest has since expanded to cover more general complaints about the course of the nation and treatment of intellectuals.

Soviets rule out military solution in Mideast

THE Kremlin has told Syria, its key Arab protégé, that a Middle East peace settlement will only be achieved by political efforts and not military action, a local newspaper reported yesterday.

It quoted Karen Brutents, deputy chairman of the International Department of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, as saying in a Moscow interview: "We have told President Hafez Assad that a Middle East settlement will not materialise through military might and that we are ready to reactivate political and diplomatic moves."

Brutents was quoted as saying the Soviet Union will continue contacts with the United States and Arab countries to convene an international Middle East peace conference, building on the achievements of the superpower summit of Moscow.

The Arabs have demanded an international conference under United Nations auspices to settle the Middle East conflict.

The Syrians lead the Arab hardliners, and have been building up their Soviet-supplied arsenal and warnings that another war with Israel could not be ruled out.

Washington initially resisted the idea of a conference, which would be attended by the Soviet Union.

It later accepts that, but only as a second step toward limited Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to the latest US peace blueprint.

Settlement

The US concept also envisages limited powers for the proposed conference, and has not accepted that the Palestine Liberation Organisation should represent the Palestinians.

Brutents said that a settlement worked out at the proposed conference should be based "on the concept of the balance of interests between the Palestinian right to self-determination and Israel's right to exist."

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Travellers warned against shopping at blacklisted stores

THE director general of the general administration for customs Ibrahim Al Ghanim yesterday warned Kuwaiti and resident passengers against purchasing any items from blacklisted stores such as British "Marks and Spencer" and "C and A".

Al Ghanim, in statements to KUNA, said these stores are boycotted as per the rulings of Israel Boycott Office.

Products brought to Kuwait by passengers can be legally confiscated in conformity with law, he stressed.

Raided

In reply to a question, Al Ghanim said all children's Uzi-shaped toy guns were confiscated from the local market.

The issue is being examined and if any manipulation was

proved legal procedures will be implemented, he added.

Al Ghanim said that inspectors from his department had raided many shops selling children toys and confiscated their stock of a replica of the Israeli 'Uzi' sub-machine gun.

In one raid, he told KUNA, a total of twenty boxes were held. He added that the confiscated merchandise is made in Hong Kong and had slipped into the market because the source and the manufacturer were not on the blacklist of the Arab Boycott of Israel.

He affirmed that his department had taken the necessary measures warranted by the situation and had asked the manufacturing company to clarify its position and its relations with

Israel. He, however, warned, that if the department discovers that the matter is deliberate it will take the agent to court so that necessary legal action will be taken against him.

The director was answering questions from KUNA on the presence of this toy which publicises the Israeli war machinery especially at a time when the real gun is used to kill the Arab people including children.

It was also found out that there is another version from this toy carrying made in China markings.

Chocolate named Flakes is also blacklisted and should not be bought back by holiday-makers, he affirmed.

Sheikh Salem visits computer centre

THE Minister of the Interior, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, paid an inspection visit to the ministry's computer centre yesterday, accompanied by the Under-Secretary, Major General Yousef Bader Al Khorafi.

The minister and accompany-

ing delegation were received at the centre by the Director General, Lt Colonel Fahd Khaled Al Mukhlid and the head of the public relations department, Colonel Ahmad Abdul Latif Al Rujaitb.

The minister toured the

various sections of the centre, where he listened to accounts of the tasks performed and reviewed the programmes currently being used, as well as those proposed for future implementation.



Sheikh Salem touring sections of the centre.

Traffic violations in May

THE department for enforcing traffic rules said yesterday that 47 drivers were jailed in May this year for violating traffic rules. These violations included driving under the influence of alcohol, driving without a valid licence, jumping the red light signal and reckless and speeding offences. In a statistical report, the department said it implemented 3450 fines and 64 driving licences were withdrawn.

Fire at chalet in Salwa

FIREMEN controlled a fire that broke out yesterday in a 250 square metre chalet in Salwa area, the firefighting general department said.

It added that the chalet, divided into nine rooms, was used as a private residence.

The fire that broke out this morning caused heavy material damages but no casualties, the department said.

Two units of Salamiya fire department were rushed to the scene and put out the fire whose causes were not known yet.

Egypt's stand lauded

CAIRO, June 7, (KUNA): Head of the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission to Egypt today stressed that Kuwait "highly appreciates" Egypt's supportive stance vis-à-vis the challenges and threats facing Kuwait, noting that such a stance at the side of Kuwait is natural from Egypt.

Ambassador Abdelrazaq Al Kandari told KUNA that Egypt is keen on offering all it can to maintain security and stability of the Arab countries, "no doubt such a stance stems from an awareness by Egypt that any threat to any Arab state is a threat to all Arab countries."

In reply to a question, Al Kandari said Egyptian officials are working on removing obstacles facing the flow of Arab investment in general and the Gulf citizens in particular.

Historic He added that the Egyptian government has passed a special law designated to facilitate the ownership of apartments, houses and lots in Egypt by non-Egyptians.

The ambassador described relations between Kuwait and Egypt as historic and bolstered

by fraternity and common destiny.

He said in this respect that relations have never been severed but were lacking the "official frame."

Majority of the Arab countries severed relations with Egypt following the signing of the Camp David accords with Israel in 1979 during the regime of late Egyptian President Anwar El Sadat.

Most of the Arab states resumed diplomatic relations late last year following the Arab extraordinary summit held in the Jordanian capital in November.

KAC offers manpower expertise

THE chairman of Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC), Ahmad Al Mishari, has said that most government establishments and authorities in the state seek to develop their manpower. He added that KAC had suggested co-ordination among these establishments to exchange experiences and experiments, which would save time and money spent on manpower development. He noted that KAC had been carrying out a plan to develop its staff for the last eight years. The experience gained during this time and details of the administrative plan were included in a special book KAC had published, Al Mishari said.

Abdel Razzak resigns

KUWAIT'S Communications Minister Abdullah Starhan yesterday accepted the resignation of Assistant Undersecretary at the ministry Ibrahim Al Abdel Razzak as of the end of the current month.

Abdel Razzak spent 30 years in service of post sector in the country and was appointed as assistant Undersecretary in 1970.

Haj convoys offering reasonable prices

THE pilgrimage season this year will be an auspicious one — the haj day being Friday. Most pilgrims, including Dr Saleh Al Ojairi of Kuwait confirmed the haj would be held this year on Friday. Hence, everybody is striving to visit the shrine this year to perform the pilgrimage rituals.

A local daily conducted an opinion survey of firms involved in the pilgrimage convoys to highlight the services rendered by these convoys.

Excellent

Mohammed Abdulfatah, one of those interviewed said prices this year were unified and reasonable and depended on the vehicle being airconditioned or not. Airconditioned buses cost KD 250 and airconditioned suburban KD350. For those wishing to travel in their own cars, a payment of KD 225 per head is to be made to the convoy owner. This price includes hotel booking, visa charges and full board. He added that his convoy would be accompanied by a refrigerated van containing foodstuffs, water and first aid materials. He praised the cooperative efforts between the pilgrimage convoys owners and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

A pilgrim, Wajeh Mustafa, said the haj season this year appears to be excellent. Adding that he had travelled with the Kuwaiti convoys about 19 times, he described the services as excellent.

Another pilgrim, Jameel Abdulfatah said he joined the Kuwaiti convoys about three times and was satisfied with their services. Previously, he said charges were KD300 per head by bus, but this year, the prices had been reduced to KD250.

Dr Yusuf Ismael, a convoy owner said prices this year were not high because they were inclusive of accommodation and food. He said his convoy would provide Kuwaiti, Egyptian and Indian cuisine. He appreciated the procedures laid down by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. However, he was critical of the ministry's decision to convoys, to allocate a specific place for the Kuwaiti pilgrims in Mina while other pilgrims could stay in different places. This he added caused several problems to convoys owners.

Hassan Ahmed and Mohammed Al Einazi both, Kuwaiti pilgrims said the prices this year were moderate and the Kuwaiti convoy services were outstanding.

Bader Fahd Al Bader, a convoy owner said some pilgrims blame the convoy owners for the hike in the pilgrimage charges this year. Actually, he said it was not high compared to that of last year, particularly in view of the services provided.

Egyptian envoy

THE State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammad Al Osaimei yesterday received Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Saeed Refaat.

Message of thanks

CHAIRMAN of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Salman Al Hamoud Al Sabah has sent a message of thanks and appreciation to HH the Amir on his recent contribution to all youth and sports sectors.

Sheikh Salman affirmed, in the message he sent yesterday, that the consistent support by the Amir to the sports movement and youth is an inspiration to exert maximum efforts to achieve hopes of our beloved country.

Youth is the main element and the true wealth of a nation and as much as we provide care and concern to them the more they will yield good results, Al Hamoud added.

The sports official renewed commitment to the Amir that the committee will continue assisting all youth sectors to elevate their performance.

Palestinian women hold charity bazaar

THE general union of Palestinian women yesterday held an open day exhibition and offered for sale handiwork made by Palestinian women in occupied Palestine.

The proceeds of the exhibition will be channelled towards supporting the popular uprising. The items on display included clothing, embroideries, popular uniforms and other handicrafts.

Speaking on the occasion, the secretary of the Palestinian Heritage Committee stressed the active role played by Palestinian women currently suffering under the harsh measures of the Israeli occupation forces. The importance of the exhibition lay in the fact that the makers of the items were surviving hard and using all legitimate means to preserve the popular Palestinian heritage. She called for further support of the national Palestinian establishment in occupied Palestine and urged the visitors to render their support through the purchase of the items on sale.

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ROYAL COURT

Deputy Amir and Crown Prince audiences

HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday received the Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, the Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi who was accompanied by head of Al Barber Hospital and his accompanying delegation.

Sheikh Saad also received the Communications Minister Abdullah Al Sharhan, the Minister of State for Municipality Affairs Mohammed Al Sayed Al Rifai, the Minister of State for Housing Affairs Nasser Al Roudhan the Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi, the Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Kholiti Al Athb, Secretary General of the Higher Council for Planning Fouad Multa Hussein and member of the Higher Council for Planning Dr Khalid Al Mazkour.

Later Sheikh Saad received in audience Sheikh Saad Jaber Al Athb and Yasser Hawari, chief editor of "Arabiat" magazine, published in Paris and also a number of citizens of the public dawn.

Cable of thanks

HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah has received a cable of gratitude and appreciation from the seminar on developing education and training in the Gulf states. Participants in the seminar, which took place in Kuwait from May 21 to 23, applauded Sheikh Saad's keenness on supporting the education and training march, saying such stance enabled them to fulfil their goals.

In a reply cable, Sheikh Saad thanked the participants for their good gesture and praised such meetings that would further enhance co-operation between the region's peoples.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Last hope of collective Arab action

THE Kuwaiti daily Al Watan, yesterday warned that the summit of Arab leaders currently meeting in Algiers, is the last hope of collective Arab action not only for the Palestinians but for the solidarity and cohesion of the Arab nation itself.

"If we do not agree on what we are in practice agreed upon, is there any hope in the future of the Arabs solving the issues on which they differ," the newspaper said in reference to the popular uprising in occupied Palestine which entered the seventh month.

The extraordinary Arab summit which opened in Algiers on Tuesday night has been called to discuss the support the Arab states can extend to the uprising against the Zionist occupation which killed over 300, and injured thousands and detained over 17,000 according to Western reports.

Noting that all the Arabs agreed on supporting "the revolution of the stones," the daily warned that "unless the summit comes out with clear resolutions supporting our people inside (Palestine) no hope can be pinned on future Arab summits no matter what slogans they raise."

Al Watan reminded the Arab leaders that the shuttle of the US Secretary of State George Shultz in the region was prompted by "the loud sound of the Palestinian stone" and in a futile attempt to silence it in favour of the Israeli interests.

"The Arab leaders are holding a challenge to unite and support the blessed uprising and make of it a benevolent opening for future unity and effective Arab summits and a strong Arab voice upholding the uprising," Al Watan said.

Writing along the same lines, Al Rai Al Aam said that contrary to misconceptions of the sixties and seventies, Israel is not that mighty power which the Palestinians feared and shun away from.

The popular uprising has created a new situation which the Arabs should be quick to employ in rejecting the policy of occupation of the Arab lands by force, the newspaper suggested, adding that the American secretary of state had admitted that new facts have emerged in the region and called on Israel to understand these facts.

The Algiers summit can show seriousness in supporting the uprising "and in viewing the revolution as one of the venues leading to drawing a new future on the Arab land," the daily said.

The state of enervated the Arab nation has been living in, should be brought to an end and progression of Arab change begun by joint Arab action based on clarity, frankness and consistency, Al Rai Al Aam underlined.

GULF PRESS

Call for decisive resolutions

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) newspapers commenting editorially on the emergency Arab summit currently in session in Algiers, called for adopting decisive resolutions to support the heroic Palestinian uprising in occupied territories.

Al Itihad newspaper of Abu Dhabi, commenting on the same subject said "President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan defined during his meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, what is being expected by the Palestinian people and sons of the Arab nation from the Algiers summit are... either a just peace matching with aspired goals of the Palestinian people ensuring their legitimate rights of self-determination and statehood or to mobilise Arab human, military and economic potentials to liberate Palestine territories from Zionist occupation.

The paper cited this position to President Sheikh Zayed's remarks during his meeting with Arafat yesterday in which he said "if the Palestinian people achieve their goals it will be a source of delight for all Arabs but if not then Arab states should not be blamed but they have to mobilise all available potentials to liberate Palestine and this cannot be achieved without unifying Arab ranks."

The paper said that if the Algiers summit is confined to the backing for the popular Palestinian uprising, Sheikh Zayed's words "defines the right path for supporting the heroic uprising as they embodied the UAE's principled stand towards supporting Arab national causes."

Concluding its editorial, Al Itihad said that as all Arab states consider the Palestinian cause as a one for all Arabs, they should adopt decisive resolutions that would restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people of statehood and self-determination.

Al Watan newspaper of Abu Dhabi, in its editorial compared the emergency Arab summit currently in session in the Algerian capital to the Khartoum Arab summit of 1967, saying that the Khartoum summit came after the defeat of Arabs in their war with Israel, while the Algiers summit is being held to back the steadfastness and bless the Palestinian uprising in occupied territories.

"The current prevailing danger in respect to the Palestinian cause is that all peace initiatives in the region, prominent among which was the American peace plan carried by US State Secretary George Shultz, are all far from the crux of the problem as they ignore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and its sole legitimate representative — the PLO.

Despite the great differences between the Khartoum and Algiers summits, there is no fixed Arab initiative to invest the repercussions of the uprising in favour of the Arab nation unless a "surprise" occurs in the summit by announcing Arab rejection of the American peace plan and showing its determination to implement the Algiers summit resolutions... otherwise there is no way out but to go to war with Israel to restore the usurped Arab rights.

WARNING

Molika Ranjani, a Sri Lankan national holding passport No. F 303563, went on leave to her country on 31/12/87 on condition that she return within 4 months. So far she has not returned and is still under our suspicion. We warn all those employed or working in the country of her responsibility. Those knowing her whereabouts are kindly requested to call tel. 2540152 or inform the nearest police station.



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The Gulf Bank K.S.C. opened on Saturday, June 4, 1988, an exclusive branch for Kuwait Airways staff in the Service Building at the International Airport. The opening ceremony was attended, from KAC, by Messrs/Ahmad Al Mishari, Chairman and Managing Director, Ahmad Al Zabin, G.M., Yousef Al Jassim OGM for Finance & Administration, Ghazi Al Masha'an, GDM — Commercial Affairs, Jassim Khasshi, Head of Banking Division and Adel Al Sane' Head of Liabilities and Cash Flow Division. KASCO was represented by Mr Khaled Al Dawasani, Managing Director and GM and Mr Al Hamoud Al Ali Financial Manager. The Gulf Bank was represented by Mr Abdul Latif Al Mehry, Chairman and Chairman of Branches Committee, Dr Yousef A. Al Aweid, Chief General Manager and Chief Executive Officer and Mr Moh'd Al Seif, GM Domestic Banking Group. This exclusive branch will extend all banking and financial services to KAC staff working at or in the vicinity of Kuwait International Airport.

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Demand is high

Providing maids has become a good business

RINGING maids into Kuwait is become a good business as they are in great demand both by citizens and expatriates.

Authorities concerned about aids, have closed several authorised businesses involved in providing maids to households.

A local newspaper toured a number of maids offices (both authorised and unauthorised) to obtain a closer look at the operations. It noted that newspapers replete with advertisements for bringing maids of various nationalities and capabilities. At each office, situated in one of the apartments, a man was sitting in a living room behind a rather imposing desk surrounded by his assistants and a number of customers came asking for maids.

Trial

Haydar Falah, one of the customers said he came to the office after reading an advertisement in the paper. He was in urgent need of a maid. The office provided him a maid who was at the office and told him to pay them KD30 in advance payment on the maid's salary. After six days, he was forced to return the maid as

she was not competent. The second maid lasted four days. The office, however, gave Falah only KD8 back, claiming the balance was their service charges. They informed him that he could go to the police should he desire.

Another customer at the same office said he paid the office money for a maid two months earlier and obtained her a work permit. However, he had not received any maid. The customer added the office gives the maid on trial for several days to another customer and collects KD30 — this is while the maid is still under the sponsorship of the first customer — without the knowledge of the original customer who sponsored the maid.

Choose

Another maid office which did not even possess any sign on its doors charged KD45 for Christian Sri Lankan maids, KD90 for Muslim Sri Lankan maids, KD200 on Christian Philippine maids, KD250 on Muslim Philippine maids and KD120 on Muslim and Christian Indian maids. A customer goes personally to choose his maid from

photographs. The office has an agent overseas and the maid arrives in about two months after papers have been processed. Photographs of maids are also sent to customers houses for selection. However, KD10 is charged for this service.

A resident, Khalil Al Khalifa said maids are necessary as they assist in cleaning the house, specially when there is a large family. Some maids offices, he claimed, said the maid spoke Arabic and English. However, when the maid arrived, she could speak neither — causing problems.

Censorship

A lady customer called for more censorship on unauthorised maids offices as they caused many problems. She had tried several maids through maids offices and faced many problems.

Another resident said he had never tried bringing maids through offices, most of the maids he had brought were through relatives or friends. He believed maids should be employed for house cleaning purposes only and not to look after children.

Amir meets Gulf leaders

ALGIERS, June 8, (KUNA): HH the Amir today called on the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani at his residence.

The Amir also received at his residence here, Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Meanwhile, Iraq's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz conferred here with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and the Saudi and Bahraini Foreign Ministers Prince Saud Al Faisal and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

Iraqi sources said that the meeting tackled agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit, currently convening here.

Earlier reports said that foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council states conferred here today with Aziz on the periphery of the conference.



HH the Amir with Sheikh Khalifa.

Permanent residence proposal still under study

AL SEYASSAH reported that a proposal to grant permanent residence to expatriates in Kuwait is still being studied by committees of the Higher Planning Council. The proposal is being studied by the public policies committee, with other committees of the council.

However, no information on developments has been reported, except that as the proposal does not have a direct bearing on the five year plan the issue is not being treated as urgent. The proposal states that any expatriate seeking permanent residence should have lived in Kuwait for at least ten years and possess a clean record. The needs for his experience and qualifications would also be considered as being vital for selection. The sources said the issue would not be discussed in the Council of Ministers.

Information centre for Commerce Ministry

A RELIABLE source, at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said the ministry will sign a contract with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) to establish an information and research centre at the ministry.

The establishment of the centre will take a year to complete at an estimated cost of KD52,000. The contract will comprise articles including financial costs, manpower needs and specialised training. KISR would also be involved in setting up the organisational structure of the centre and training of some employees of the ministry in the work complexities.

Computer operator fined

THE Court of Misdemeanour has fined a computer operator KD100 for using his expertise in computers to make illegal money and drafts from the bank where he worked.

The accused told the court that he would pledge to pay back the money if the bank dropped the charge.

Plan to reorganise real estate market

IT has been reliably learnt that the local real estate companies have formed a committee to discuss methods for organising and developing the real estate market in the country.

The committee aims at developing basis for the purchase and sale of real estate within which framework real estate brokers would operate. The committee in its first meeting decided to write to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry on organising the real estate market on lines similar to those existing at the stock exchange market. A company has been requested to prepare a computerised programme that would provide detailed information to dealers about real estates offered for sale and also provide periodical reports about conditions prevailing in the real estate market in Kuwait. The management of the Kuwaiti Stock Market agreed to study the proposal of providing a

computer for this purpose in the stock market itself.

The committee has the support of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry after it held a meeting with its chairman, Abdul Aziz Al Saquer who promised to provide total support and added the committee would be preparing a law to regulate the real estate market.

Health registration

THE Public Health Ministry has announced that it will start applying the new health registration system for everyone in the country next week. Sources at the ministry said that the new system would be applied in its first stage in the Amiri health area on 14 June. It called on citizens and expatriates living in the Qadisiya and Shamiya areas to visit their health centres as of that date. The ministry said that every person would have a personal health file and that the system would depend on information from the Public Authority of Civil Information.

20 AIDS cases in Qatar

DOHA, June 8, (AP): Qatar said today the number of carriers of the acquired immune deficiency virus in this Gulf state is 41, of which 20 have tested positive for the disease AIDS itself.

Health Undersecretary Hagar Ahmed Hagar was quoted by the Qatar News Agency as telling a press conference that seven of the 41 were Qatari nationals, while 11 had died.

Hussein opens gallery of Kuwaiti formative arts

PARIS, June 8, (KUNA): Under the patronage of an adviser at the Kuwaiti Amiri Diwan, Abdul Aziz Hussein, a gallery of Kuwaiti formative arts was opened at the UNESCO headquarters yesterday evening.

The gallery, which displays the works of 22 Kuwaiti artists, was visited by the Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Dr Tareq Razouqi, Kuwait's permanent representative at UNESCO, Dr Faisal Al Salem, and senior officials at UNESCO.

Progress

Also present at the gallery, which is held for two weeks at the Sally Pas Pedros Hall at UNESCO, were chairman of the Institute of the Arab World, Paul Carton, institute's director general Basem Al Jir, permanent delegates to UNESCO and chairman of the international union of formative artists, Ismail

Al Sheikhly.

"I can only congratulate Kuwait for its offer to the world of this art," Carton told the Kuwait News Agency.

Al Sheikhly said the gallery reflects the progress of the Kuwaiti formative arts movement which has now reached high international levels.

Chairman of the Kuwait Society for Formative Arts, Mahmoud Al Radhwan told KUNA that the gallery was organised by the Kuwait commission for education, science and arts in co-operation with his society.

He added that the gallery will move to Rome after Paris where it will be held in the Egyptian academy for two weeks.

Al Radhwan is accompanied by the society's member Abdallah Al Qassar and Adel Al Mishal.

Sudan affirms support for Kuwait's stand

SUDANESE head of State Council Ahmad Ali Mirghani yesterday affirmed his country's supportive stand to Kuwait's efforts to defend its security and sovereignty.

Mirghani, in an interview with a Kuwaiti daily condemned Iran's continuous aggressions on Kuwait, calling on it to respond to international peace calls and UN Security Council resolution 598.

He also emphasised the importance of unifying Arab ranks, clearing Arab atmosphere and setting up an Arab strategy to

achieve these goals.

He expressed hope that the current emergency Arab summit in Algiers would achieve these goals.

He said the Arabs should invest the achievements of the Palestinian uprising at diplomatic and informational levels to win world public opinion.

He concluded, that the foreign media intervention hindered the Sudanese initiative to restore the Egyptian-Libyan relations, affirming that his country would continue its mediation in this regard



Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad opening an art exhibition at the arts gallery of the Higher Theatrical Arts Institute at Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem. The ceremony was held Tuesday to coincide with the graduation of students of the institute.

‘مبارك جابر’ وزير ‘معلومات’
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الغرافيك في الدوحة
التي افتتحها وزير
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3. Arabic Word Processing and Office Management using Arabic display write (DWA), FormTool and SideKick Packages. [25 hrs]
4. Data Management using Dbase III+ and LOTUS 123 together. [35 hrs]

Registration is open now and closes on June 20th

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Table Talk

BY DINAH

RECENTLY we spent the evening at Al Andalus Supper Club of the Holiday Inn Hotel where they were hosting a British night as part of a week-long British festival. As we entered the lobby musicians dressed as beefeaters played a fanfare full of pomp but totally out of proportion to the circumstances — a rather pathetic exhibition of British products comprising a few bottles of shampoo the odd chocolate bar and a couple of cars.

Of all the night clubs in Kuwait Al Andalus is perhaps the most spacious and comfortable. It's designed in the form of a grotto with rock walls,

Ploughman's supper

trickling water and a circular glass dance floor surrounded by a moat and fountains. The buffet is set out in a separate room and there is even a redundant bar complete with bar stools. The seating is plush and comfortable and the tables roomy.

The evening included a three course dinner buffet and live entertainment from a traditional jazz band and folk singers. The salad buffet was first class. Although the range of dishes was small, they all contained top quality ingredients such as crab claws, Gulf prawns, smoked salmon, smoked berring and mackerel. There were pressed meats, meat in aspic and in impressive cheese board. There were also some original salad combinations such as chicory and wal-out.

The range of hot dishes was equally impressive but out to my taste. The best of British food is a hearty diet designed for a weary farm labourer who was spent the day ploughing in biting winds and driving rain. Steak and kidney pudding, roast sirloin and Yorkshire pudding, shepherd's pie, Irish stew, mashed potatoes and

brussels sprouts all seemed out of place in a night club when the temperature outside was over 40°. However, if you like that type of fare it was very tasty and well prepared.

The desserts were similarly the kind that a rosy cheeked farmer's wife would serve up after a heavy day's harvesting or sheep shearing. There was a wide selection of home made pies which were delicious but really lacked fresh cream or custard to make them palatable. The crisp and caramelly brandy snaps were perhaps the greatest success.

The band created a lively atmosphere with their foot-stomping trad jazz, while the waiters provided a brisk and efficient service. At KD5,500 per person including juices, water and coffee the evening was excellent value for money.

RESTAURANT: Al Andalus
TYPE: Night Club of Holiday Inn

MEAL: Three course buffet
PRICE: KD11 (for two)
Star rating: (out of five):
FOOD: ****
SERVICE: *****
ATMOSPHERE: ****
VALUE FOR MONEY: *****



Paul Fraser strikes a Ramboesque pose

Farewell concert

By Keith Wells

PAUL FRASER, one of Kuwait's most popular entertainers, is leaving the country at the end of this month, so his two concerts at the Salmiya Cinema on Friday will be his last performances in Kuwait.

The shows, produced by huddling independent impresario, Ken Winston, will be called, "Sounds Great". Paul will be singing with the Juke Box Band, starring Phil Thomas and June Stephenson, with Waleed doing his Michael Jackson dance routine. The first half of the show will be performed by popular local band Top Rank, with Adolph.

Paul Fraser has been in Kuwait for the past nine years, working as a civil engineer on the design and construction of Kuwait's motorway system. He's appeared in about thirty shows while he's been here. "I've done all sorts really," he says with a self-deprecating grin. "It started when I went to audition for a pantomime and Ken Winston asked me if I'd like to play the Dame. He's been the one who kept suggesting new things for me to do."

Alia, my wife, also gave me a lot of moral support and encouragement. I found the scenes of Ben El-Mechaieck, he was the driving force behind all the Juke Box shows.

His private shyness and lack of ego are in stark contrast to his Over-The-Top stage performances. His impersonations of Elvis, Freddy Mercury, Gary Glitter and Bruce Springsteen have delighted local rock fans with their enormous talent and energy. "I really enjoy doing them," says Paul, "especially Billy Idol, which Gail Seery described as my 'grossest' impersonation so far." But they're more parodies than impersonations, they're all such outrageous personalities. It's been great singing for a thousand people, and I suppose I'll really miss it after I've gone."

Paul had played guitar and sang before he came to Kuwait, but never in public. Now, he says that he has no plans to carry on singing back in England, although he'd like to perform ballads, perhaps in a cabaret-type setting. "If you're interested in these things, though," he confesses, "they tend to find you."

His future plans involve setting up his own business designing and building conservatories in the Kew area of south London. But who knows, maybe he'll end up rocking in the glass houses?

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
The Last Shark
Starring: James Francisco, Vicki Moro
Al Salmiya
Eat the Rich
Starring: Roland Alleo
Al Hamra
Killer Fish
Starring: Lee Majors, Karo Black
Al Jazira
Aad Liyanatqam (Arabic)
Starring: Ezzat Alaili, Imaan
Al Firdous
Himmat aur Mehnat (Hindi)
Fahad Open-Air
Jungle Ki Beti (Hindi)
Al Fahad
Bedeon (Bengali)

Al Jazira
Qaher Al Fursan (Arabic)
Granada
Cries in the Night
Starring: Kathamari Kalamari (Malayalam)
Al Jazira
Samrat (Hindi)
Almazaki
Almazaki (Arabic)
FRIDAY
Al Jazira
Secret Admirer
Granada
Nastik (Hindi)
Salmiya
Guns and Fury
Al Jazira
Namak Halal (Hindi)

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.25 Rahlat Haul Al Alam: cartoons
10.15 Shagha Bidono Saqqa: daily serial, with Tahya Karioka, Dalal Abdul Aziz
11.00 Ila Ah! Wa Ammi Ma'a Tahya: starring Hayat Al Fahd, Khalid Al Nafis
12.00 Good Morning/News
1.50 Fawazir Al Munasabat: featuring Yahya Fakhrani, Sabira, Hala Fuad
4.00 News Summary
4.15 The Saint: featuring Roger Moore
5.00 Lila Al Khamis: weekly local show
7.00 Al Farooqia Wal Zama: prepared and presented by Mohiuddin Qadoor
7.30 Soogs and Music
7.45 Al Bahath, Ao Al Saadah: weekly serial, starring Samir Ghanem, Hussein Mustafa
8.30 With Islam: prepared and presented by Dr Khalid Al Madhkur
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 From People's Art: Songs and Music
10.30 Raghibah, Wa Haqad Wa Inteqam: Arabic feature film, starring Farid Shawki, Iham Shabio, Hossein Fahmi
12.00 Late Night Variety Show presented by Amina Al Sharah
1.00 News Summary/Holy Quran/Closedown



Roger Moore plays The Saint on KTV1 today.

Hamza
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
1.35 Songs
2.00 Preview TV Shows
3.30 Al Qadi Raadi: play for children, starring Abdul Hussein Abdul Rida, Ghanem Al Saleh, Aisha Ibrahim, Maryam Saleh, Comedy
5.45 Cartoons
6.15 Songs
7.00 Kuwait in a Week
7.30 Discussion on Islamic Philosophy: "The Rights of Man." Part One
8.25 Kul Al Funoon: Focus on Art
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Wrestling
10.50 Naseem: part two, Kuwaiti play, featuring Abdullah Hahil, Maryam Saleh, Mohammad Jaber, Khalil Ismail, Directed by Mohammad Abdul Salam
11.45 News Summary
11.50 World News via Satellite/Holy Quran/Closedown

accuses her mother of plotting her father's death.

10.00 The Bill Cosby Show: "Calling Dr Huxtable." Cliff is on call.

10.30 Late Night Movie: "Soggy Bottom in US." Predictable drama about a small town sheriff whose dog loses in a dog race; meanwhile, a book in town is robbed.

11.40 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Transformers
6.30 Out of this World: "Beano's New Diet." Beano opens a new diet clinic and promises that a famous pop star would attend the opening.
7.00 Airwolf: "The Puppet Master." The team has to prove that a science group, claiming to work for peace, are inciting trouble around the world.
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Beauty and the Beast: "Shades of Grey." Catherine gets a written statement from a friend. What is the statement? And how is Vincent involved?
9.40 227: "Washington Affair." Sandra invites a "special" friend for dinner. Her neighbours are curious to find out more about him.
10.00 Guinness Records: many world records are set by dario, adventurous men and women.
10.30 The Wiseguy: "Not for Nothin'." Vinnie, working under difficult circumstances, plots the murder of Burnette, Starling: Ken Wahl.
11.30 News Summary
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 She Ra: "The Tune in the Sword." cartoons
6.30 The Mickey Mouse Club: a 30 minute show for young viewers
7.00 Rags to Riches: Foley takes the girls on a picnic.
8.00 News in English
8.40 TV Bloopers and Practical Jokes
9.05 Spooner for Hire: "Murder, She Wrote." A girl

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Boushary Gallery
Today is the last day of watercolor printing exhibition by Yugoslav artist Jovica Prodanovic, open at the Boushary Gallery, Salem Al Mubarak St., Salmiya from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.40 pm.

CINEMA

British Council
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, a film for children, will be shown at 6 pm on June 15 and at 10.30 on June 16. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is an old neglected car. Who could have guessed it has magical qualities? Approx. Duration: 145 minutes.

THEATRE

KLT
Last performance of KLT's musical Brigadoon opens at 8.15 pm. Tickets: KD 3; children KD 2. For reservations call 393724.
Bengali Cultural Society
The Society will present "Bichhao", a Hindi drama based on a story by Bengali novelist Mahasweta Devi, on Thursday and Friday at 7.30 pm, at the Mousetrapp Theatre, New English School. The play is part of the 40th Indian independence anniversary celebration. For reservations contact 3903976; 3901806; 5621379.
Sounds Great
Sounds Great, a pop-rock musical, will be performed at Salmiya Cinema Thursday, two shows at 5 pm and 8 pm. The show will feature Juke Box band with June Stevenson and Top Rooks with Adolf. Farewell appearance of Paul Fraser. Introducing Walid Al Nimer who will dance to Michael Jackson's top hit, "BAD". Produced and directed by Ken Winston. Tickets KD 3. For reservations ring 5740256/7; 5516991; 5758870.

SOCIAL

Pakistan Youth Association
A mushaira will be held on Thursday at the home of Asim Naushad in Salmiya. The former consul of Pakistan to Kuwait, Abdul Haque, will preside. Chief guests are Ustad Qam Amrohi and Ghulam Wafta Sahri. For details phone 2410997.

Bangladesh Cultural Show
A well-known female magician, Ajra Jabeen, from Asia is due to perform in Kuwait this month. Jabeen will be accompanied by Bangladeshi singers Fakir Alamgir and Farida Farveen and others. Cultural evenings will be held on June 22 and 23 at the Holiday Inn Hotel, June 23 at Jeeb Al Shiyookh Cinema; June 24 at Fahad Cinema and June 26 at Jazira Cinema. For reservations phone 4717700 or contact the hotel.

United Ganes Centre
The "UGC" will hold their annual Summer Belle 88 contest on August 11. The committee will host a gala event to mark the 10th anniversary of UGC.

D'Assisi Association
The association will hold a social evening cum entertainment on August 11 at Messilah Beach Hotel. The event is part of the 40th anniversary of Indian independence. Top Ranks and Next of Kin will be in attendance. For details contact Leena - 2469811, 9.30 am to 5 pm; Henry 3291909/am, 3717346 (pm) or Augusto 5746754 after 6 pm.

Saez aur Awaz
An Indian music group presents "Geetoo, Bhari Sham", their second concert, at the IAC, Funitates, on Thursday, June 16, 8 pm. For reservations phone 3985456 or 5638026 after 5 pm.
Kuwait Players Ball
Kuwait Players "end of season ball" on Thursday KD 7 per person. For details phone 5330934; 5613465; 5611546.

Contact

The next meeting of the ladies information group, Contact, will be held on Saturday, June 11, from 10 am, at the SAS Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. Tel: 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

Onam Festival
The Viswabarathi Theatres, Ahmadiya, will celebrate Onam on Aug 25 at the Indian Arts Circle. The programme comprises Onam songs, Mohiniyattam, classical dances, Thiruvathirakkali, folk dances, light music, one-act play, boat race and Kerala rural arts. Those interested in taking part contact Lazar Varghese - 4314511; Thomas Perumpilly - 4810490 ext. 207; Varghese Paradyil - 2422973.

Eid Reunion
An Eid Reunion party for Bangladeshi colleagues and architects will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel, Al Amal Hall, at 7 pm on June 23. For details phone 4718157; 4311351; 3713923 after 3 pm.

Bangladesh Engineers Society in Kuwait
The Bangladesh Engineers Society in Kuwait, Badesik, will hold an Eid reunion and a cultural programme, with dinner, on Friday, June 10, at the Meridian's Banquet Hall. All Bangladesh diploma engineers can take part. Tel: Altafur Rahman - 901 5166; Ansar Ali - 4571603.

SPORTS

PBAK Bowling Tournament
The Philippines Bowlers Association in Kuwait (PBAK) will hold their bowling tournament for men's and women's doubles on June 17, 24 and July 1 and 8, at the Holiday Inn Hotel. The tournament will be held from 6 pm to 10 pm. The elimination rounds will be held on June 17 and 24. The semi-finals are on July 1 and the finals are on July 8. For registration contact PBAK Director Sara Macarimbang - Tel: 4843447.

FM Services

0800 Easy Listening
0830 News
0840 Easy Listening
1000 Songs and Music
1100 Country and Western
1200 Songs and Music
1300 Easy Listening
1330 News
1400 Alam Al Naghm: Classical Music
1600 Easy Listening
1700 Arabic Songs and Music
1800 Party Music
1900 Songs and Heard
2000 Party Music
2130 News
2145 Party Music
0200 Closedown

FRIDAY

0800 Easy Listening
0830 News
0840 Easy Listening
1000 Songs and Music
1100 Country and Western
1200 Songs and Music
1300 Easy Listening
1330 News on FM
1340 Easy Listening
1500 Classical Hour
1600 Easy Listening
1700 Arabic Instrumental Music
1800 Pops
1900 International Top 20
2000 News
2145 Pops
2300 Easy Listening
2400 Instrumental Listening

English

Morning
0800 Opening
0802 Songs and Music
0805 The Spirit of Islam
0830 News
0840 Songs and Music
0845 Daily Programme
0900 Pop International
0930 Your Kind of Music
1000 Our Press Today
1005 Songs and Music
1030 The Hit Makers
1100 Closedown

RADIO PROGRAMMES

Evening
2100 Opening
2102 Songs and Music
2130 News
2145 Point of View
2155 Songs and Music
2200 Understanding the Holy Quran
2215 Sounds of the Eighties
2245 Daily Programme
2300 The Way You Like It
2330 Star Tracks
2400 Closedown

FRIDAY

0800 Opening
0802 Songs and Music
0830 News
0840 Songs and Music
0845 Daily Programme
0900 Muslims Around the World
0915 Songs and Music
0930 Kiddies Corner
1000 Songs and Music
1030 Singers and their Songs
1100 Closedown
Evening
2100 Opening
2102 Songs and Music
2110 Daily Programme
2125 Songs and Music
2130 News
2145 Point of View
2155 Songs and Music
2200 The Friday Request
2400 Closedown

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Behrizen Qaul
1916 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Panchayati
2000 News
2005 Songs and Music
2040 Radio Magazine
2100 Closedown
FRIDAY
1900 Opening
1910 Behrizen Qaul

BBC World Services

0800 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newswel
30 King Street Junior (ex 23rd and 30th Sportsworld)
45 Society Today
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
30 Waveguide
40 Book Choice
45 Society Today
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Network UK (ex 23rd and 30th Sportsworld)
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 From Coca to Cocaine
0400 Newsdesk
30 Classical Record Review
45 Reflections
50 Financial News
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Peebles' Choice
45 The World Today
0600 Newsdesk
30 Irving Berlin Among Friends
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Andy Kerrish's World of Music
45 Network UK (ex 23rd and 30th Sportsworld)
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 Country Style
30 John Peel

0900 World News
0915 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Society Today
1000 News Summary followed by Assignment
30 King Street Junior (ex 23rd and 30th Sportsworld)
45 Society Today
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Sportsworld (ex 9th and 23rd News Ideas)
25 19th and 23rd nny) Book Choice
30 Citizens
1200 Radio Newswel
15 Multitrack 2
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Network UK (ex 23rd and 30th Sportsworld)
45 Sportsworld (ex 9th and 23rd Folk in Britain)
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 Write On... (ex 16th Sports-world)
1500 Radio Newswel
15 The Pleasure's Yours
1600 World News
09 News about Britain (ex 2nd Commentary)
15 Assignment (ex 23rd and 30th Sportsworld)
45 The World Today
1700 World News
09 Commentary (ex 2nd A Letter from England)
15 Citizens
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newsdesk
30 Discovery
1900 Outlook, opening with News summary
30 Stock Market Report
45 Here's Humph
2000 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Meridian
2100 News Summary followed by Talking From... (ex 23rd and

30th Sportsworld)
15 A Jolly Good Show
2200 World News
09 The World Today
25 Book Choice (ex 2nd A Letter from England)
30 Financial News
45 Reflections
45 Sports Roundup
2300 World News
09 Commentary
15 Seven Seas
30 Irving Berlin and Friends
40 The Farming World
FRIDAY
0900 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newswel
30 Music Now
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
30 3rd and 17th Jazz Scene UK; 10th and 24th Folk in Britain
45 Talking From...
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Tich Talk (ex 24th Sports-world)
30 Citizens
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 The Vintage Chart Show
0400 Newsdesk
30 Country Style
45 Reflections
50 Financial News
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 The Politics of Laughter (ex 3rd Education Today)
15 The World Today
0600 Newsdesk
30 Meridian
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Write On...
45 Seven Seas (ex 24th Sports-world)
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 A Schubert Anthology
30 Music Now
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Future Imperfect (ex 24th The Mixer)

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.13 am
Zuhr 11.47
Asr 3.21 pm
Maghreb 6.47
Isha 8.18
FRIDAY
Fajr 3.13 am
Friday Prayer 11.47
Asr 3.21 pm
Maghreb 6.47
Isha 8.16

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Aham Pharmacy
Souk Muttaheda, Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Garnata Pharmacy
Al Rashid Bldg., Fahd Al Salem St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Sabah Pharmacy
Othman St.
Salmiya and Rumathiya
Al Nahda Pharmacy
Baghdad St.
Fahad and Ahmadi
Al Ittihad Pharmacy
Makkah St., F'heel
Jeeb Al Shiyookh
Fahad Pharmacy
Munira Eid Al Rajai Bldg., Main St.
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Muttah St.
FRIDAY
Kuwait
Al Ameen Pharmacy
Bebbehani Bldg., Jaber Al Mubarak St.
Al Moji Pharmacy
Al Moji Bldg., Abdullah Al Mubarak St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Ribab Pharmacy
Ribab Complex, Tunis St.
Salmiya and Rumathiya
Al Raed Pharmacy
Amman St.
Fahad and Ahmadi
Abu Halifa Pharmacy
Coast Road
New Khaitan
Al Aham Pharmacy
Sulaiman Saleh Al Rahmani Bldg., Block 3
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Market

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THREE cotton-top tamarin monkeys gather under an infra-red lamp at Melbourne's zoo which is providing artificial heating for animals during winter in nesting and sleeping boxes. Butterflies enjoy constant humidity while the elephants sleep in night quarters. (Reuter wirephoto)



FORMER French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac (right) campaigns for the second round of the general election in Paris, yesterday. Next to Chirac is Jacques Domini, the outgoing member of Parliament of a Paris constituency. (Reuter wirephoto)



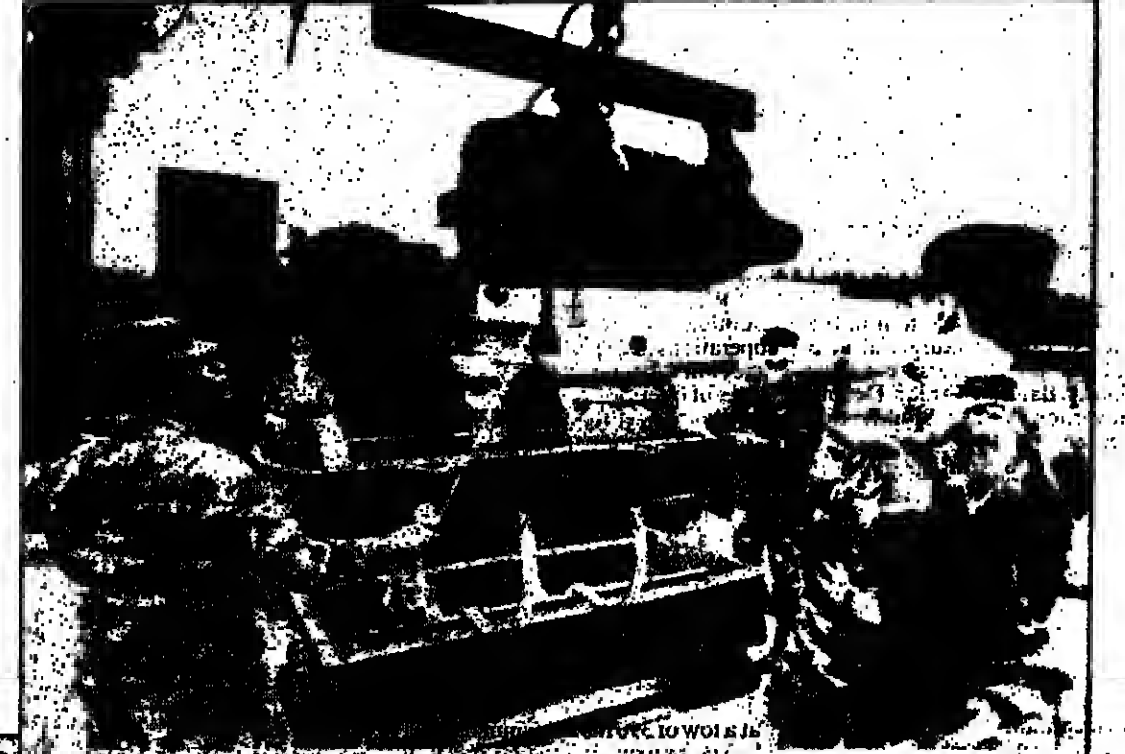
AUSTRALIA'S first surrogate baby, Alice Kirkman, is held by her genetic mother Maggie Kirkman (right), as her sister Linda Kirkman, who bore the child, looks on while posing for the media in Melbourne yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



A MINER dressed in a traditional costume, wipes away a tear during a memorial service held for the victims of the colliery accident on June 1. (Reuter wirephoto)



US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci (left) and his South Korean counterpart Oh Ja-bok signed three military cooperation agreements in Seoul yesterday. Carlucci is on a three-day visit expected to be dominated by discussions on security for this year's Seoul Olympics. (Reuter wirephoto)



UPON the signing of the agreement documents at the Moscow summit, US soldiers of the 56th Field Artillery Command in Muenchen near Bonn guarded the disassembled radar section of a Pershing II intermediate-range missile into a container. In accordance with the INF treaty the Pershing II and cruise missiles based in Mutlangen will be withdrawn from West Germany during the next three years. (Reuter wirephoto)



VETERAN explorer Chris Bonnington on his arrival at Heathrow Airport after his team successfully scaled the western route of the Menluntse Mountain in the Himalayas. The expedition also claims to have found clues pointing to the existence of a Yeti-type creature and one member of the party believes to have seen what he thought was a Yeti. (Reuter wirephoto)



EMPEROR Hirohito of Japan speaks to Princess Kikuko (left), widow of Prince Takamatsu, a younger brother of the Emperor who died of lung cancer last year, as he visits the grave of the prince in Tokyo yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



MASSACHUSETTS Gov. Michael Dukakis raises his arms in victory as he greets his daughter Kara at a campaign victory party at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles on Tuesday. Dukakis won the California primary to gain enough delegates to secure the Democratic nomination for president. (Reuter wirephoto)



VICE-PRESIDENT George Bush waves to supporters at a Republican victory party on Tuesday. Though Bush clinched the GOP nomination weeks ago, he has been campaigning heavily against Democrat Michael Dukakis in California. (Reuter wirephoto)



PEKING University students stage a sit-in demonstration in front of the Revolutionary Museum on Tiananmen Square yesterday as onlookers crowd around them. (Reuter wirephoto)



TURKISH communist leaders Nihat Sargin (left) and Haydar Kutlu (right) face the state security court trial in Ankara with other defendants. (Reuter wirephoto)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Britain announces sale of Girobank

LONDON, June 8, (AP): The government announced yesterday that it would offer the state-owned bank, Girobank, for sale to a financial institution.

Girobank, formerly National Giro, is Britain's sixth largest bank. It was set up in 1968 to cater to the needs of traditionally cash-oriented wage earners and now is part of the post office.

Industry Minister Kenneth Clarke announced the latest privatisation in the House of Commons, saying the bank "now needs to expand vigorously."

The bank, which has about 2.5 million customers, had a pre-tax profit of £23.1 million (\$42 million) on revenue of £328 million (\$594 million) last year.

"It will be important to safeguard close links between Girobank and post office customers," Clarke said.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has previously ruled out the privatisation of the Royal Mail, but not of other postal activities.

Solid agreement needed on output quotas in Vienna talks

OPEC to try again to stabilise world oil prices

LONDON, June 8, (Reuters): Deep, politically tinged divisions confront the OPEC organisation which tries again in Vienna talks this weekend to agree on measures to stabilise world oil prices.

Ruling prices in a generously supplied market are below an OPEC target of \$18 a barrel, and the demand outlook is uncertain — so oil analysts say that the organisation may need a solid agreement on output quotas for the rest of 1988.

An existing accord expires at the end of June. But talks in April on trying to concert new output cuts with six producers from outside the organisation ended with OPEC in disarray.

"The fact that the oil ministers failed to agree any new measures (in April) signals the latest depths of political divisions within the organisation," said industry analyst Geoff Pyne of London-based stockbrokers Phillips and Drew.

Iran, Algeria, Venezuela and

Libya are among those favouring tighter output curbs to drive prices higher. But Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, Kuwait and the UAE do not want prices to overshoot \$18, market sources say.

OPEC has been split for a decade: between members who need more money now and others, like the Saudis, who have petroleum reserves that will last well into the next century and fear that high prices might stamper the West into energy conservation and alternative energy.

Fergus McLeod of Barclays De Zoete Wedd said: "There are two camps. The majority who were very disappointed in April and are very disappointed that prices are low and would like to see a small cutback in production."

In the other, the Gulf producers are pointing to higher demand and want an increase in the production ceiling.

"The normal pattern when there are two camps is to roll over what they've got."

What OPEC has now is a December 1986 accord to try to keep prices at \$18 by assigning output quotas to 12 of the 13 members — Iraq has excluded itself — within an overall ceiling of 15.06 million barrels per day (BPD).

"Actual output is about 300,000 BPD higher," traders say, while market prices are below \$17.

For consumer nations, a compromise that simply rolled-over the existing accord would probably keep pump prices about where they are now in the coming months, analysts say.

Remarks by OPEC leaders suggest that the Vienna talks will have to grapple with three particularly difficult issues — alleged cheating on their quotas by some members, founder member Iraq's refusal to join in organisation output curbs and the future of cooperation with non-OPEC oil exporters.

One problem is to try to define petrol-rich natural gas condensates and then decide if these

should count for quota purposes as crude oil.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait believe some members are defining crude as condensates, which do not at present count towards output quotas, allowing them to exceed production ceilings.

Founder-member Iraq's refusal to participate in output restraint, on grounds that OPEC fails to give it a quota as big as that of Gulf war foe Iran, is an issue which has taken on new urgency, analysts say, because Iraqi production is set to increase substantially.

"The Gulf Arabs are coming to press hard for Iraq's inclusion. They feel it's becoming increasingly pressing to settle it," said McLeod.

Urgency

"For the first time, we detect a sense of urgency in the Saudi position to solve the issue this year, ahead of a one million BPD projected increase in Iraq's export capacity in 1989," says brokerage Kleinwort Grieson Securities.

"In recent months, it has become quite clear that, in Saudi and Kuwait eyes, the Iraq quota issue is OPEC's biggest problem," its latest world oil report adds.

Earlier last month, Indonesian Oil Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita also said Iraq should enter the quota system.

OPEC has regularly appealed to non-members to co-operate in stabilising prices.

Believed

But when six non-organisation producers made a unique offer back in April to cut exports by five per cent, if OPEC reciprocated, OPEC could not come up with an agreed response.

"We must first get our house in order," said Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh said recently he believed there was now a good chance of OPEC finalising cooperation with non-OPEC oil producers at the coming meeting.

Bank of Jordan to loosen controls on interest rates

AMMAN, June 8, (Reuters): Jordan's Central Bank expects its move to loosen interest rate controls will help reduce pressure on the dinar, a senior official said today.

"I think the relaxation in the interest rate structure will help stabilise undue pressure on the dinar," Bank of Jordan Deputy Governor Maher Shukri told Reuters.

Signals

"Interest rates movements will give us regular signals about what kind of monetary policy the Central Bank should follow."

Yesterday the Central Bank abolished a 7.375 per cent ceiling on certificates of deposit for three months and over and worth more than 1,000 dinars (\$2,800). It also freed banks to set their own commission on direct lending to clients.

Deregulation of interest rates had been discussed with banks for many months.

Shukri said Monday's reintroduction of a compulsory exchange rate set by the Central Bank had already proved effective.

"The new system has practically eliminated speculative pressures on the dinar and shown the market that the supply and demand of foreign exchange in Jordan is balanced," he said.

Shukri said banks would now be allowed to deal in foreign currency banknotes, hitherto the preserve of moneychangers who handle about 10 per cent of foreign exchange dealings.

"Moneychangers still have a role, but we want to minimise the risk of their operations and bring it in line with their capital, which is usually very small," he said.

"We want to draw to the public's attention that their operations are very risky. People shouldn't be tempted by high rates of interest."

The Central Bank reverted to setting binding rates after two years in which it posted only guideline prices. It reassessed its grip after two runs on the dinar in a month opened a gap of about 10 per cent between the official and market prices.

Guidelines

It quoted rates of 355/359 fils to the dollar today compared to the last guideline price of 344/355 fils on Monday. The dinar traded at a low of 390 fils last Thursday.

The pressure on the currency appeared to stem from fears about devaluation and foreign exchange shortages.

"We don't pretend everything is rosy and beautiful," Shukri said. "We have problems like everyone else, but they are solvable and we can handle them. They shouldn't cause these reactions."

He said foreign exchange reserves, at a record low of \$28 million in April, were drained by foreign debt repayments totalling \$600 million in the first quarter, but were still enough to meet demand.

Shukri said the move to liberalise interest rates was a very important structural change.

Japan's trade surplus in May likely to plunge

TOKYO, June 8, (Reuters): Japan is likely to chip a huge billion dollar chunk off its trade surplus in May, with much of that from its imbalance with the US, economists said.

"The bilateral trade situation between Japan and the United States is becoming very bright — very optimistic," said economist Hidehiro Iwaki of the Nomura Research Institute.

The strong yen has been forcing Japanese manufacturers to raise prices of their goods sold in America, while the weaker dollar is helping US imports become more competitive amid a booming consumer market at home, economists said.

Economists see the overall Japanese trade balance falling to an average \$5.2 billion from 6.4

billion in the same month last year, marking the 13th straight month of declines.

"Japanese imports are growing faster than exports, keeping the trade balance falling," said economist Richard Jermol of the brokerage Kleinwort Benson International. "And imports should continue to outpace export growth for a couple of years."

Projections on Japan's surplus with the United States are much more difficult, but several economists see it down by at least half a billion dollars from \$4.45 billion a year earlier.

That would be down from the fifth straight month. In April the bilateral surplus was \$4.13 billion.

Japan will report the trade

data tomorrow.

The United States will benefit the most from Japan's trimming of its trade surplus because the year's strength has been mainly against the dollar rather than European currencies, economists said.

Japan's goods still are competitive in Europe, even though sales of its products in the United States are starting to deteriorate, they added.

Japan's trade gap with the European Economic Community in fact may balloon even further in coming months, beyond its \$2.30 billion surplus set in April this year, they said.

The decline for May's overall Japanese surplus is likely to be accentuated by a sharp rise in oil

imports during the month, Iwaki said.

The oil imports will augment the already brisk Japanese buying of foreign goods, he said. The domestic economy is amazingly strong and will probably show 10 per cent growth for the first quarter of this year, he added.

This growth in imports will more than offset any rise of exports, which continue to bulge from shipments of capital goods — machinery and parts needed for setting up new production plants overseas, economists said.

The strong yen has encouraged the new investments overseas, with corporations moving production out of Japan to keep products competitive in overseas markets, economists added.

Commonwealth bankers visit London

LONDON, June 8, (AP): Several central bankers from Commonwealth countries are due in London this week to hold talks ahead of the annual meeting of the Bank of International Settlements.

The meetings are routine and no major issues are expected to be raised, an official at the Bank of England said today.

"Before the BIS meeting, central bankers from countries with close links to Britain stop off at the Bank of England for private meetings," said the official, who was not identified, in accordance with British practice.

US President gets briefing on key issues Reagan prepares for economic summit

WASHINGTON, June 8, (Reuters): President Reagan began preparing yesterday for this month's economic summit in Toronto, receiving a briefing from his top advisers on key trade and agricultural issues.

The June 19-21 meeting of the leaders of the seven major industrial democracies — the United States, Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Japan and Italy — will be the last annual economic summit of Reagan's eight years in office.

A White House official said the hour-long briefing included a discussion of the overall goals

and objectives of US trade and agricultural policy at the summit. Reagan will receive three more briefings on other summit topics.

The official said Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter and Daniel Amstutz, the chief US negotiator at world trade talks, briefed Reagan "on agricultural issues and the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) round regarding the President's proposal to end farm subsidies."

He was referring to the Uruguay round of GATT talks,

launched in 1986 and expected to conclude in 1992, which for the first time include farm products in free-trade negotiations.

Observer

The US proposal has not been received with enthusiasm by the European Economic Community, which has called for short-term measures to stabilise prices and manage production.

The EEC is an official observer at the summit.

World Business Summary

W. German broker in VW fraud to confess

FRANKFURT, West Germany, June 8, (Reuters): A West German foreign exchange broker suspected of masterminding a currency swindle which cost Volkswagen AG 480 million marks (\$282 million) will confess his involvement, a lawyer representing the broker said today. Lawyer Egon Geis told Reuters Hans-Joachim Schmidt was prepared to confess he had arranged fraudulent currency deals between VW and the Hungarian National Bank which resulted in losses of 380 million marks (\$223 million) for the car maker. Schmidt, however, was denying charges that he profited from arbitration transactions by VW currency dealers which cost the company an estimated further 100 million marks (\$58 million), Geis said. Schmidt, together with VW's former head of foreign exchange Burkhard "bobby" Jünger, is suspected of having masterminded the currency swindle. Schmidt is now in detention in the northern West German town of Oldenburg after his extradition from the United States last weekend. Jünger has been in detention in Brunswick since April last year. Geis said Schmidt would be prepared to confess his part in the swindle before the trial, which the prosecution does not expect to start before next year. A confession would speed up proceedings and the trial could start sooner, Geis noted. Volkswagen said last year the fraud had involved "hedging" against currency movements at a time when the dollar was higher than at present. Large international companies often protect against exchange rate fluctuations that may affect their business by contracting to buy and sell currencies at a future date at an agreed price.

Nyerere urges developing countries to unite

KINGSTON, June 8, (OPECNA): Former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere has urged developing countries to follow the example of the developed nations and unite for the purpose of negotiations between North and South. Delivering a keynote address at a ceremony here, Nyerere decried the lack of unity among developing countries and their preference for bilateralism. The Inter-Press Service (IPS) reported. "Rich nations quarrel among themselves, but when they are dealing with poor states, they work together and organise themselves," Nyerere pointed out. "We, the poor countries of the economic South, must organise ourselves to decide what we can do better by joint action and to implement our joint decisions," he added.

The former Tanzanian president who is currently chairman of the South Commission established by the Non-Aligned Movement, said developing countries were vulnerable because being small, dependent and underdeveloped, they were forced to seek external capital to finance their development. All the industrialised countries, except Japan, had developed only after "massive injections of capital" and developing countries were not likely to be any different. Nyerere pointed to the imbalance in world trade, adding that poor countries "sell at prices fixed by developed countries and buy also at prices fixed by them — it is they who set the interest rate on our loans." "Worse, we sell cheap and buy dear," the African leader said. He said developing countries should form a group to co-ordinate their position in facing the North in negotiations such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Businessmen set stage for universal banking system

CHICAGO, June 8, (AP): International bankers and businessmen said yesterday the stage was being set for the eventual creation of a universal banking system, which would offer a variety of financial services to customers worldwide. For one thing, regulatory barriers that separated investment and commercial banks, such as the 1930s depression-era glass-ceiling act in the United States, were being abolished or re-examined, Rainer E. Gut, chairman of Credit Suisse in Zurich, told the international monetary conference. He said the bank of the future will have to change its business strategy by becoming more competitive and aggressive. "In the 1990s, the typical manager in a successful universal bank will be globally oriented, have a flair for market opportunities and possess entrepreneurial instincts," Gut said in prepared remarks released in advance. The three-day monetary conference, in its 34th year, provides leaders of the top commercial banks and corporations in about two dozen countries an opportunity to confer with government officials on topics affecting the world economy and international banking.

Texaco plans to distribute \$1.65 billion to shareholders

NEW YORK, June 8, (AP): Texaco Inc., the third-biggest US oil company, said yesterday it plans to distribute to shareholders a third of the \$5 billion, about \$1.65 billion it expects to raise from selling assets as part of its bankruptcy reorganisation plan.

"The distribution may involve cash or the use of securities, in anticipation of the proceeds to be realised from the sales programme," it said in a statement, adding that it is expected to make the distribution "before year end."

Strengthen

"The remaining two-thirds of the proceeds ... will be used to repay debt, strengthen the balance sheet and fund increased capital investment programs for selected retained operations," the statement added.

Monday, Texaco said it had agreed to sell its 99.12 per cent interest in Deutsche Texaco

AG of West Germany to a major utility in that country. Rheinisch-Westfälisches Elektrizitätswerk AG, also known as RWE, agreed to pay something over \$1.2 billion for the subsidiary.

Yesterday's announcement by the White Plains, New York-based oil giant also updated its progress in other aspects of its reorganisation plan.

Deal

A deal to sell 60 million barrels of oil and gas equivalent reserves should be closed by the end of this month.

Proposals to establish joint ventures with certain unnamed oil-producing nations were "in advanced stages of review." The ventures would involve three Texaco refineries and related marketing facilities on the east and Gulf coasts.

Studies continue on what to

do with its 88 per cent interest in Texaco Canada Inc., including the possible sale, merger or joint venture of some or all of the assets.

The latest developments are a result of months of negotiations that began as Texaco prepared for its April emergency from a year under chapter 11 bankruptcy court protection.

Failed

Texaco had filed for that protection a year earlier to avoid having to post an \$11-billion security bond while appealing a \$10.3 billion judgement held against it by Pennzoil Co. A jury ruled Texaco had interfered with Pennzoil's 1984 attempt to acquire part of Getty Oil Co. so it could buy Getty itself.

In December, Texaco agreed to settle the suit by paying \$3 billion to Pennzoil as part of a restructuring plan that included sales of \$3 billion worth of assets.

Soon afterward, financier Carl C. Icahn, its largest stockholder with 14.8 per cent of the company's shares, stepped up pressure on Texaco's management to do more to increase the value of its stock.

Icahn yesterday blasted Texaco Inc.'s newly announced plan. Icahn, who holds 14.8 per cent of Texaco, called the plan inadequate and self-serving and said in a statement:

"The truth is management is trying to buy time with a plan that won't sell. Their time is up — stockholders want the right to vote for \$60," Icahn said.

He offered \$60 a share to buy out Texaco, a bid valuing the company at \$14.5 billion, after failing to convince the board to undertake a drastic restructuring.

He is also seeking to install five directors on the 14-member

board at the annual meeting on June 17.

"Unfortunately, Texaco management will promise almost anything to keep me off the board," he charged.

Texaco pledged earlier in the day to pay about \$1.65 billion to shareholders in response to Icahn's charge that the company has not done enough for them.

Distribution

The special distribution, reflecting one-third of the \$5 billion Texaco expects to raise in asset sales, will be made before the end of the year, the company said.

The form of the Texaco payout will be "a share buyback or other direct shareholder participation or distribution," Texaco said. The distribution, which will be in cash or securities, has been endorsed by Texaco's board of directors.

Japan and EEC agree to step up trade talks

BRUSSELS, June 8, (AP): Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and European Economic Community officials agreed yesterday to step up bilateral trade contacts.

At talks at the EEC head office, Takeshita responded favourably to a suggestion by EEC Commission President Jacques Delors to create a panel of experts to discuss technical aspects of rocky EEC-Japan trade relations, officials said.

Strengthened

Takeshita also stressed the need for Japan and the 12-nation EEC to widen their relations beyond trade to cultural and scientific sectors.

"The relationship between Europe and Japan is not very strong or as well developed" as that between the United States and both Europe and Japan, and aide to Takeshita told reporters.

Senior EEC and Japanese officials meet annually. An EEC

official, speaking on condition he not be named, said Delors believed more frequent regular meetings of experts could be useful in defusing trade tensions.

The EEC is conducting numerous anti-dumping investigations against Japanese exporters.

Deal

Yesterday's talks dealt with trade-related issues and the economic summit later this month in Toronto of the seven leading industrial nations.

It was agreed that the summit topics should include economic cooperation and the world debt situation, officials said.

At yesterday's talks, the EEC official said EEC foreign trade commissioner Willy de Clercq noted a "remarkable improvement in trade relations" between the 12-nation trade bloc and Japan, even though the EEC continues to register a large trade deficit with Japan.

This gap shrank by four per cent in 1987, but was still 20.9 billion European currency units (\$25 billion).

For his part, Takeshita said the EEC's plans to turn the 12 EEC states into a single, borderless market by the end of 1992 was good for Japan.

Restrictions

But his aide quoted him as saying: "The ... single market after 1992 should be the one which is open to the outside world" and that the EEC should remove restrictions on Japanese exports.

However, he dismissed the idea of reciprocity in trade, an issue the EEC has given high priority in order to gain greater access for European goods to the Japanese market.

"We fully understand what (the EEC) Commission people are saying on reciprocity but Japan agree to reciprocity on a sectoral basis," Takeshita was

quoted as saying.

Among specific trade issues discussed were Japan's high taxes on imported liquor and cars, the difficulties of foreign companies tendering for Japanese public-works projects and better access for EEC exports of telecommunications hardware and semiconductors.

Urged

The EEC side also urged Japan to liberalise its banking sector. Officials said Delors stressed European banks must be able to establish themselves in Japan to make it easier to finance European exports and investments.

De Clercq also called on Japan to quickly comply with a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ruling to amend an accord with the United States on trade in semiconductors. The world trade body has ruled the deal discriminates against the EEC.

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KD deposits ease in quiet trade

KUWAITI dinar interbank deposits eased in quiet trade yesterday, with liquidity remaining high despite a new KD100 million offering of 91-day Treasury bills.

Dealers said a maturing issue of KD90 million of bills, coupled with an influx of funds from the offshore market, provided banks with surplus cash for the new offering of government paper and helped exert downward pressure on rates.

The Central Bank said it had received KD229 million worth of bids for the bills which were allotted at an average price of 98.451 for a discount yield of 6.213 per cent.

Short-dated funds were all well-offered, with offers for overnight funds put at 1/2 per cent and tomorrow next at one per cent.

Spot next dealt at three per cent, reflecting a decline of around two percentage points from Tuesday's levels. Dealers reported two-way trade in one and two-month deposits, which dealt at 6-1/8, and 6-1/4 per cent respectively.

Three-months eased 1/8 point to 6-3/8, 1/8 per cent while six-months inched down 1/16 point to 6-3/16, 1/8 per cent. The Central Bank left its exchange rate unchanged at 0.27548/58 to the dollar. Commercial banks quoted rates of 0.27565/72.

Meanwhile, in Bahrain, Saudi riyal deposits surged once again yesterday in a market dominated by speculation that Saudi Arabia will soon launch a long-awaited government bond issue to finance its 1988 budget deficit.

Traders said the market had begun quietly softer, but soon turned higher again as banks in the kingdom and offshore Bahrain market started increasing already long riyal positions.

The rise had been sparked by Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency Governor Hamad Al Sayari's confirmation last Sunday that the bonds scheme was still going ahead. Timing of a launch remains unclear, but banks are anticipating a heavy drain of liquidity.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, June 8. (Reuters): Selective buying by institutions pulled Australian shares off their lows after early profit-taking triggered by downturns on Wall Street and in London. The All Ordinaries was down 4.6 at 1591.8.

TOKYO: Prices fell slightly in brisk trade due to lack of buying incentives and concern over weakness on Wall Street fell overnight. The Nikkei index fell 54.67 to 27,912.65.

HONG KONG: Local institutional buying pushed prices past the 2,600 level on the Hang Seng index for the first time since May 4. The index rose 21.95 to 2,608.98.

SINGAPORE: Prices rebounded to close marginally higher across the board on speculative buying and some bargain-hunting in active trading. The Straits Times industrial index rose 9.32 to 1,040.51.

BOMBAY: Prices closed mixed in alternate bouts of heavy selling and buying when trading resumed after being disrupted for two days. Tata Steel rose 27.5 rupees to 902.5.

FRANKFURT: Shares shrugged off a poor opening to end higher despite fears that yesterday's downward technical reaction would continue. The Commerzbank index, calculated at mid-session, was down 6.8 at 1,398.7.

ZURICH: Prices closed narrowly mixed, with the overnight fall on Wall Street and today's slightly firmer dollar making little impact. The All-Share Swiss index was up 0.4 to 842.

Amadeus officially launched

THE presidents of four European airlines, Air France, Iberia, Lufthansa and SAS, recently ratified an agreement marking the official creation of Amadeus.

To efficiently handle increased traffic loads over more numerous destinations, airlines are depending more and more on computers.

Recognising this trend, Air France approached Lufthansa in Nov 1982 to propose the development of a joint computerised information distribution system.

The goal is to establish a system that would provide members of the travel industry comprehensive information on hotel reservations, car rental, insurance, etc.

In 1987 Iberia and SAS joined the development. The Amadeus system, it is claimed, would become one of the largest information and distribution systems in the world.

Mathews gets NRI of the Year award

Heated discussion on Indian tax laws

By Fathima Ahmed

THE chairman of Indian Arts Circle (IAC), M. Mathews, was on Tuesday named NRI of the Year by the NRI Forum, Kuwait. Mathews was given the award for his "dedication and untiring service" for the welfare of the Indian community in Kuwait. The award was presented by Indian Ambassador N.N. Jha at the annual general meeting of the NRI Investors Forum, Kuwait, held at the IAC, Funnaises.

A five-member SBI Cap team, led by D. Basu, managing director, also attended. Basu gave a brief talk on investments and capital market in India.

Sparked Guest speaker H.P. Raina, tax consultant and lawyer, sparked a heated discussion, often controversial, on the Indian tax laws and its anomalies. Raina clarified that FCNR (foreign currency non-resident) deposits in banks in India are fully repatriable. It had been inadvertently reported that FCNR deposits are non-repatriable. NRI bonds, issued by the government, which mature after seven years, are non-repatriable he said.

Raina said taxation, both for Indians and foreigners, is not "heavy" in India. "Good planning can minimise the tax burden," he said. Jha, in his address, said that the government of India "was not oblivious to the problems of NRIs." Jha said there is an "ongoing dialogue between the



(L-R) Mohan Menon, Jha, Khanpuri and Basu pictured at the NRI Forum's annual general meeting.

government" to alleviate anomalies in laws and reduce problems.

He advised Indians to "make constructive and objective criticism" and said "utopian ideas will end in futile attempts."

The Forum's honorary secretary K.A. Valsan read out the annual report, saying their objective was to provide information to NRIs.

Deepak Vaish of the Bahrain NRI Forum also attended the annual meeting.

Mathews is said to have taken a personal interest in rebuilding the IAC premises and reportedly contributed a substantial sum of money and led the drive to reopen the IAC, after the previous IAC building in Rumailhiya had been burned down some years ago.

Mathews received a rolling trophy, which would be given every year to an Indian, a man or a woman, who serves, or brings bonour, to the Indian community. A commemorative shield was also given to mark the event.

The trophy and shield were sponsored by Mohan Menon, vice-president of the NRI Forum, Kuwait. NRI, Kuwait, formed two and a half years ago, was the first such forum in the world.

Encourage

Mathews, receiving the trophy, said the award was "the culmination of efforts by many others."

The Forum has stressed that the trophy has been instituted to "encourage Indians, particularly the young, to take an active part in community and social



Mathews: NRI of the Year

service." "We want to encourage the young Indians to work for the welfare of the community," said Menon.

Veto of trade bill will be sustained: White House

Reagan favoured in Senate showdown

WASHINGTON, June 8. (AP): The White House expressed confidence today about winning a Senate attempt to override President Ronald Reagan's veto of comprehensive trade legislation.

"We believe the veto will be sustained," presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said. He said the administration will begin working quickly with Congress on another version.

"Our discussions with the Congress indicate that a number of members would like to have a trade bill — Democrat and Republican — that they feel it's important for the country, as well as politically, and the committee leadership certainly is interested in a bill," said Fitzwater.

"I think there is a growing body that feels like a trade bill is needed and can be passed," he added.

But some, such as Republican Sen. John Heinz, a strong supporter of the bill, said they still thought a version acceptable to Reagan could be fashioned this congressional session.

Override

The House of Representatives already has voted to override Reagan's veto of the bill. Senate failure to follow suit could doom trade legislation for the rest of 1983 and send some administration loyalists into fall election campaigns with an aches and pains on the issue.

The bill's chief provisions would overhaul the system under which the government imposes import controls to aid US industries and retaliate against international trade violations.

Other features range from a potential \$2 billion in agriculture subsidies to repeal of the windfall profits tax on oil-industry earnings.

Reagan's May 24 veto focused on a provision that would require companies with 100 employees or more to provide their workers with 60-day notice of plant closings and large-scale layoffs. He said the provision would take away too much management flexibility. Reagan also was critical of restrictions in the bill on Alaskan oil exports.

Failed

A two-thirds majority is needed in Congress to override a presidential veto. The bill's backers failed to gain that when the Senate passed the bill 63-36 on April 27, and the lawmakers appeared to remain frozen in the positions they took then.

Some supporters of the Republican administration clearly would like another crack at the issue before the November presidential election. The administration has been urging a scaled-down bill that would win the president's support. But the Democratic leader in the Senate, Robert Byrd, has been warning that a fresh bill would be peppered with amendments and could become hopelessly bogged down.

Byrd said yesterday the bill's "pulse is still beating," but there

was nothing he could do to budge the perhaps 36 senators prepared to sustain Reagan's veto.

Byrd told reporters there was still hope that home-state pressures would change a few minds at the last minute.

"This veto is going to be used as a political issue this year; we'll know that," Heinz warned his colleagues.

As debate began, Heinz said the political potential of the issue should not prompt lawmakers to give up on trying to fashion a bill that Reagan would sign.

"Anybody can just sit in the stands and boo the umpire," he said. "If there's a chance to pull this game out — albeit in extra innings — we should at least take our last at bats."

Senate Republican minority leader Bob Dole said getting another trade bill through this year might take an agreement that would bar amendments. He said there was precedent for doing that but indicated it still might be difficult.

"If the president's veto is sustained," said Sen. Alan Cranston, a Democrat, "it may be a long, long time before we get another chance to pass a comprehensive trade bill. Don't let anyone tell you that it will be as simple as passing the same trade bill without the plant-closing provision to which the president objects."

Egypt begins crucial economic review with IMF

CAIRO, June 8. (Reuters): Egypt and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have started a secret review of the country's economic performance that should decide the fate of their difficult year-old relationship, diplomats said.

President Hosni Mubarak had talks with key economic ministers as an IMF expert prepared the ground for next weekend's arrival of senior fund officials.

At stake in the review, due to take up to two weeks, is a new standby credits accord which would underpin a request for fresh debt rescheduling which Cairo is expected to make soon.

"These talks will be quite crucial, something of a watershed," said a Western embassy economist. "They will determine whether there is scope for a new agreement."

The most populous Arab state, saddled with \$43-billion of foreign debt, enjoys considerable Western support in reforming an economy reliant on aid and state subsidies and short of hard currency.

But Egypt's last IMF accord, signed in May last year, is all but dead and a new one is needed, diplomats said.

The IMF has withheld \$150 million in credits because it

wants Mubarak — juggling fund demands for austerity against the need to cushion the poor and prevent unrest — to bring in more radical measures more quickly.

The fund has demanded increased domestic interest rates, higher prices for subsidised goods and services, especially energy, and more steps to reduce the budget deficit. It has also sought an end to an artificial exchange rate used for dollars to finance essential food imports.

Diplomats said fund experts would find conflicting signals.

They would applaud a 40 per cent rise in petrol prices last month, though a litre still costs a quarter of world levels, and the way Egypt's year-old streamlined exchange rate system had worked, for instance.

But they might be angered by planned public service wage rises and a bigger budget deficit projected in next fiscal year's draft budget, diplomats said.

Cairo is still negotiating unhurriedly with seven creditor governments about the fine print on a total of \$1.2 billion in debt reschedulings under a Paris Club accord.

The agreement expires on June 30 but experts said the deadline was not rigid.

Dollar rises against most currencies, gold falls

LONDON, June 8. (Agencies): The US dollar rose against most major currencies in European trading today, but lost ground against the British pound. Gold closed lower in dull trading.

Dealers said uncertainties about upcoming US trade figures for April, scheduled to be released on Tuesday, kept the dollar in a tight range for most of the session.

Nervous

"The market will continue to be nervous at least until next week's trade figures," said one Frankfurt dealer.

The dollar fell against the pound in London late today. At the market's closing, it cost \$1.8175 to buy one pound, more expensive than \$1.8130 late yesterday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late yesterday:

— 1.7183 West German marks, up from 1.7143
— 1.4350 Swiss francs, up from 1.4277
— 5.7923 French francs, up from 5.7910

— 1.9250 Dutch guilders, up from 1.9245

— 1.2730 Italian lire, up from 1.2730

— 1.2220 Canadian dollars, down from 1.2318

Gold fell in Europe today, following yesterday's drop in New York.

Drop

"The price drop happened in New York and we're discovering that Europe isn't strong enough to make much movement on its own," said a bullion dealer in Zurich.

In Japan, Tokyo share prices fell slightly in brisk trade today as nervousness over Wall Street's volatility and Japanese exporters' basic bullish optimism.

The Nikkei index closed 54.67 points or 0.19 per cent lower to close at 27,912.65 after losing 28.92 points yesterday.

"There's still some uncertainty about Wall Street and the American economy," said a broker at Nikko Securities. Turnover was a brisk 1.8 billion shares against 1.6 billion

yesterday, a fact many workers interpreted as a sign of market health.

"It looks like the market will continue in a steady fashion," said Haruo Nakahara, senior analyst at Prudential Bacbe Securities.

Fears of rises in US interest rates helped pull down prices of securities house shares while the US dollar's slight fall in New York yesterday undermined the electronics sector.

Weak

The US dollar weakened against the yen but rose against the West German mark while sterling rose. But trade was generally dull as currencies remained locked in narrow ranges in the absence of fresh news.

"Operators are just awaiting the release next Tuesday of April US trade data," said a dealer.

The dollar closed at 125.32 yen and 1.7128/33 marks against 125.45 yen and 1.7110/15 marks in New York yesterday.

In New York yesterday, stocks, bonds and the dollar tur-

ned in a uniformly weak performance, extending Monday's mostly languid session.

Gold was trading in Tokyo at around \$458.90 per ounce by late afternoon against New York's yesterday's close of about \$460.

In London, a forecast of cooler weather in the US Midwest sent gold prices tumbling around the world, easing investors' worries that a poor harvest in a major grain belt could push food prices up and help rekindle inflation.

The price of gold was fixed in London at \$458.75 in ounce, down \$5.65 from yesterday afternoon fixing.

For weeks, traders have been marking prices of wheat, corn and soybeans higher fearing that bot, dry weather in the North American breadbasket would slash this year's harvest.

Fuelled

Prospects of rising food prices fuelled investors' worries about inflation which were making stock markets jittery. Gold, a favoured hedge against inflation, had attracted buyers.

Share prices generally eased

slightly, as London's FTSE index of 100 blue chip shares opened 4.9 points lower at 1,815.3.

"The market will be technical and quiet today as operators work at fine tuning of positions ahead of the data," said Shuji Ayabe, assistant manager at Fuji Bank in London.

Unsure

And with the dollar idling, investors in Europe and Japan are unsure whether or not to buy shares of big exporting companies. A weak dollar cuts their export sales but a stronger US currency could open new business opportunities for them.

London's 30 share Reuters Zeitung index edged 0.93 points higher to open at 302.92, and the All-Share Swiss index slipped 0.5 points to 841.4. The Paris Bourse indicator slipped 0.02 per cent, while Milan's MIB index was unchanged.

In Sydney, the Australian All-Ordinaries index closed 4.6 points lower at 1,591.8 but Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 21.95 points to 2,608.98.

Saudi Arabia to borrow from banks

RIYADH, June 8. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia is pushing ahead with its first major borrowing for 25 years and is expected to issue government bonds to commercial banks in the next few days.

Banks said today Riyadh had already placed bonds with government agencies in a bid to bridge a projected 36-billion-riyal (\$9.6-billion) 1988 budget deficit and would now make a long-awaited offering to kingdom banks.

Issue

"The bond issue is on," said one senior banker. "Banks will be telephoned on either this Saturday or next about the issue."

Leading bankers were summoned to the central bank, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), earlier this week where broad outlines of the issue were explained.

The briefing ended five months of uncertainty over the on-off-on-off bonds scheme, first unveiled by King Fahd in his budget address to the nation at the turn of the year.

It breaks a 25-year-old taboo surrounding government borrowing and is seen by bankers as dictated by the harsh reality of weak oil revenues and dwindling foreign reserves.

Doubts about the wisdom of borrowing date back to the late 1950s when budget extravagance and mounting debts plunged Saudi Arabia into a deep financial and political crisis.

But by 1962 the government had cleared its debts and since then has preferred to pay cash or enter into oil barter deals, especially when financing multi-billion-dollar arms purchases.

Unsure

Bankers are still unsure as to the exact form of the bonds but expect full details to be revealed in a telefax invitation.

"The first tranche to banks will be between one billion and three billion riyals (\$265 to 800 million)," said one banker. "Maturities will vary from between one and five years."

Bankers said the government had placed bonds for an un-

known value one or two weeks ago with the general organisation for social insurance and pension fund, both government agencies.

"But that was mere bookkeeping," said another banker. "The government was borrowing from itself."

The plan to issue government bonds has dominated the riyal money market — centred in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and London — but had been plagued with uncertainty as only scant details emerged and rumours abounded it had been cancelled.

Opposition

One source of delay during the past months appears to have been opposition from religious groups opposed to the Western concept of interest payments and development of Saudi Arabia's Western-style banking system.

Besides providing funds for a government strapped by falling oil revenues and shrinking reserves, the bonds will develop capital markets and help authorities control money supply.

Sales show bad year for businessmen

THE 1988 summer sales have ended and indications are that it has been a bad year for businessmen. Kuwait imports showed a continuous drop since 1982, the year during which Kuwait was at its economical peak and showed record imports valued at KD2385 million.

An economical report by the Central Bank of Kuwait show Kuwait's imports in 1986 at KD1534 million. Spending on government and private consumption dropped from KD4357 million in 1982 to KD4100 million in 1985.

Attributed

This drop was attributed to the drop in local consumption of commodities and services. The economic classification for Kuwait imports indicate 1984 to be the year of highest record for consumer commodities with Japan being the main source of manufactured goods exported to Kuwait.

Higher currency exchange rates for some currencies during

1986 and 1987 will lead to an increase in prices of these countries' commodities. Conversely, market sources expect an increase on imports from sources which deal with dollars.

Korea emerged as one of the main sources of Kuwait's electrical appliances and car imports with 1988 summer sales showing the same trend as 1987 winter sales.

In an interview with a local daily, the sales manager of Al Andalus trading company, Jamal Al Taber described Kuwait's general market conditions as being weak.

However, he said his company sales tripled during the current sales season. This was because of the customers demand for Korean products which his company stocked in large and varied forms. He estimated Korean sales of electrical products to be 50 per cent of the total market.

Japanese products, however, showed a drop basically due to the price difference between

Japanese and Korean products, including, the quality and guarantee services of Korean products.

He said 30 per cent of consumer demands was on TV's, 30 per cent on videos, 20 per cent on electric washers and refrigerators and 20 per cent on stereos and recorders.

Prices of Korean products shows a 3 to 4 per cent increase between 1987 and 1988, on the other hand, prices of Japanese products showed a higher increase because of the rise in the Japanese yen exchange rate.

The marketing manager of an electrical appliance store said most consumers of Japanese products were Kuwaitis and middle income non-Kuwaitis and Korean products were mostly in demand by low-income customers.

However, before a distinctive change in the preference of customers to Korean products emerges, a period of 3 to 5 years is necessary he said.

UN commodity fund to come into effect

GENEVA, June 8. (AP): Cuba has notified the United Nations that it will ratify this week a planned UN fund to shore up commodity prices, meaning that the main provisions for the fund's entry into force have been met, a spokesman said yesterday.

The UN Common Fund for Commodities will probably not begin operating for at least a year, however, because practical details must still be worked out, said Graham Shanley, spokesman for the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

Shanley said Cuba had told UNCTAD in Geneva that it would ratify the pact this week, and that an announcement would be made in New York.

Cuba would be the 101st country to ratify the fund. Its participation would put compulsory contributions to an initial \$470-million capital fund at \$313.6 million, just over the two-thirds

needed for the common fund to enter into force.

The Maldives has also indicated that it would ratify the accord this week, but formal notification has not been received yet, he said.

Guarantee

The Common Fund will act as a source of finance for international commodity agreements that use buffer stocks, a device used to help steer world market supplies and thereby prices. Major accords involving buffer stocks have been negotiated on rubber and cocoa.

According to UNCTAD, the Fund will not loan out its capital, but will use its guarantee capital if the commodity organisations need to borrow money on international markets or from member countries, for example.

A second account of \$265 million already pledged is earmarked for financing research and development on com-

modities, for example on quality improvement. This money will be freed when the fund enters into force.

Countries first agreed in June 1980 to establish the Common Fund, and set a ratification deadline of March 31, 1982. The deadline was then moved to Sept 30, 1983. When that date passed without the minimum being reached, the 64 countries that had ratified the agreement decided not to set another deadline.

Probably

Shanley said those countries will meet to set a date for the agreement to take effect. He said they would probably meet in New York, but no date had been decided.

Before that session takes place, UNCTAD's governors' council will also have to meet to decide practical details such as where the Common Fund will be based, Shanley said. He said the

only city that has been proposed so far is Amsterdam. The council is not expected to meet before the autumn.

The Soviet Union has ratified the agreement, and will contribute 5.78 per cent of the fund's starting capital.

Ambitious

The United States signed the pact under the administration of President Jimmy Carter but has not sought Senate ratification. The US contribution would be 15.7 per cent.

The fund was central to an ambitious programme launched at a 1976 UNCTAD conference that aimed to promote price stabilisation of 18 major commodities.

Developed countries have since lost some of their enthusiasm for such agreements, especially an agreement regulating wheat prices went bankrupt three years ago.

US lacks money to sustain growth: Japan

TOKYO, June 8. (Reuters): The United States has begun to cure its financial ills but may lack the money and machinery for a quick return to economic health, Japan warned today.

"The US has begun to make a turnaround, but many, many problems remain," Atsushi Oi, a research director of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry's (MITI) trade and policy bureau, told reporters.

Endorsed

MITI's 40th annual white paper on international trade, an analysis of international trade and relevant economic issues, endorsed by the cabinet today, said the US budget and trade deficits were the main impediments to global trade and investment.

Oi warned that another burden may be on the way — a deficit of savings in the United States.

US industry needs money to upgrade its plant and become more competitive, but it faces a shortage of funds because Americans are not saving

enough, he said. In the past two years they have borrowed more than they have saved, he said.

"The US is moving from twin deficits to triple deficit," Oi said.

Upgrade

When it is able to gain the funds, US industry is increasingly turning to trade rival Japan for the machinery needed to expand and upgrade plants.

"The danger is that this builds in dependence on Japanese capital goods," Oi said.

But the trend has benefits for Japan. "It puts (American) importers in a dilemma vis-a-vis protectionism," he said.

The MITI paper said the US must rein in

New York on foot

Walking in a jungle called Manhattan

By Adam Nicolson

WHERE Manhattan comes to its artificial point in Battery Park, built out into the bay after decades of accumulating rubbish on the foundations of buildings to the north, the view induces ecstasy — Brooklyn across the water, Liberty on her island, the sun on the others moving out to the Narrows and the Atlantic beyond them. Here the first Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam landed from Europe, and from here they returned. It was known as the Weeping Quay, named after its twin in Holland.

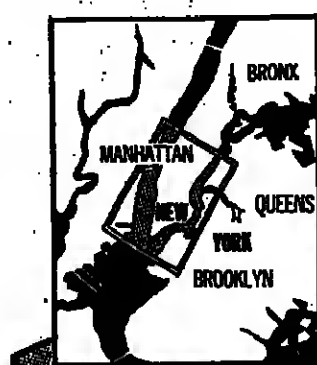
Turn north to the cliff of the business district. It is like an English port town — Chichester, Woodbridge or Whitby — grown big on itself, a freak baby, weighing 20 stone, a little thing thick with elephants, the bloated numbers pinned to a fragile structure of winding, narrow streets. Trinity Church at the head of Wall Street, facing the Bank of Tokyo and the Irving Trust Co, sits here as a black little grandmother dwarfed by her shining progeny.

Growth

North of the money belt, moving up Nassau Street, there is a sudden growth of messy shops, selling hiking gear, fishing tackle and bras reduced by 20 per cent. On the street in front of the vent, where the steak-flavoured air is blown out from the restaurant kitchen at passing feet, a man lies whispering about his children and the pencils he has for sale.

For a city so famous for its divisions, there is a curiously easy slurring of categories as you pass from big business to marginal enterprise and on to City Hall, the courts and government offices. Here is one great pleasure of New York: sliding by, the Los Angeles sensation on foot, the sidewalk, the freeway.

Up Centre Street, along the fringe of Chinatown, and then cutting over by Lafayette to the edge of SoHo on Broadway, the girls are all in black, their shoes



are patent, sleek but rubber on the sole, and their hair is designer-messy.

The men's necks are shaved up to their heads so that if you walk behind them you can see the tendons of the neck moving under the grey screen of bristle on skin. SoHo is zoned for "Art."

And then, sweetly, most magical of all, the glutinous smell of dry-cleaning fluid, blown in an invisible flag across the sidewalk on the corner of Mercer and Bleeker, on the edge of the Village.

One block on, a blind man, still self-conscious of his look in clothes he cannot see, is led across the ragged intersections by his guide dog.

On these streets — given a furry look by the fire escapes which halfhide and halfexpress the buildings on which they grow like stubble — sheltering under some plastic sheeting

torn from the walls of a building site behind him, a derelict lies whispering: "Please, please, find me." He leans like a Roman at dinner, one elbow on the pavement, the other crooked out towards the passers-by.

You reach Washington Square and move up the bland-out lower reaches of Fifth Avenue, where a woman — she's in account management, with prophetic eyes and a seductive, drawn-out Southern drawl — is overseeing the shooting of a commercial. For the ad, well-dressed young women are drinking tea and smearing the backs of their hands across their lips afterwards. The idea, she says, is to target coffee, because coffee is "vulnerable."

Sliding along, west of Fifth and going north through the

flower shops, the potted gardens on the sidewalks (between Broadway and Seventh around 28th Street) and then the Garment District and the sweatshops with Korean signs hanging out into the street (all through here up to 40th Street), you reach the porn movie cinemas on Eighth Avenue (XXX-otie XXXcessive XXX-travaganzas).

I had lunch at Jean Lafitte on 68 West 58th Street. It was delicious. A place where authors, wearing consciously ragged jeans and shirts made sweaty by real life, smile to their lipstick agents smiling across at them, and joke about the age of boyfriends and the problem of always repeating one's father in the boyfriends one chooses.

The agents order the boys lobster because that's what they deserve. Their other acquaintances speak bad French to the waiter from Milwaukee, who speaks bad French back until, without laughing, the French breaks down and one asks of the other: "What's the soup anyway?" The answer: "French onion." is also delivered without laugh.

block something worried me. There was something almost spookily coherent about the street. What lay behind this moneyed coherence north of 60th Street? And then I realised: it is the only place in the world where the people look like shops. Not like the mannequins or the clothes on display in the shops, but like the shops themselves.

The fashion ideal of Madison Avenue is plate-glass sunglasses, a suit that looks as much as possible like wipe-down tiling and tone-in grout, the face plastered white, the "ambience," as they might say in Jean Lafitte, exuding wealth despite every effort to deny it.

On 74th and Madison there was grass for sale, mini-prairies in little black pots. On Seventh, a Henry Moore shop and then the crusty bread shop and the PS-1-Love-You shop, and the do-your-bedroom-out-in-bras-and-broderie-anglaise-because-you'll-feel-better shop.

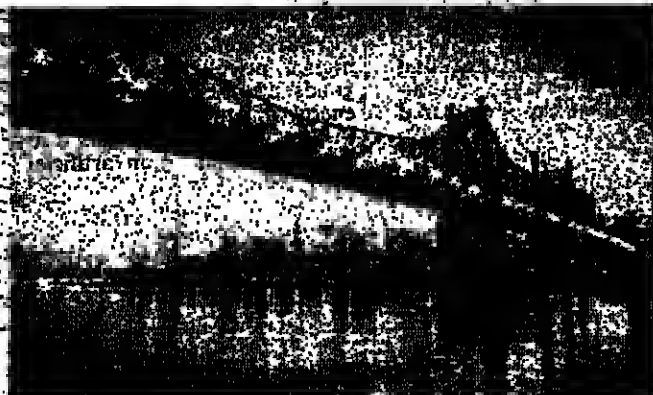
At the end, north of 96th Street, it is not Madison that darkens, but the cross-roads, which empty and roughen, which lose the shine, and are not made-up.

Look back at that lit slot to the south, then bring your eyes lower and down to the street and see the self-sufficiency of prosperous New York mixed with the occasionally flaccid face of the Upper East Side inheritance millionaire.

He wears flat soft shoes, as wide as cars, a wide-fringed tassel laid across them, and has that near-whine present in his watery voice of the never-anything-but-joking upper-class American rich.

Standing at the edge of Harlem, in the oily dusk, you will hear the two rhythms of this city, each distinct, each hardly connected with the other: on top, hard, quick, excitable, and vicious, the rhythm of money; below, deeper, slower, scarcely heard unless you listen for it, seeping out like the plumes of steam from the pores in the road, the undertones of sorrow.

Brooklyn Bridge across the water; the view induces ecstasy



Brooklyn Bridge across the water; the view induces ecstasy

John Diamond

ERE are those, I am told, who fly to California only to ter away their time in libu lying on the sandy edge he Pacific wondering if the will ever get around to set-

Others — don't laugh — and good money getting to flywood just so they can alk in the granite-starred as of Brando and Astaire. But what about Disneyland. ask them. What about igic Mountain, Knott's ry Farm or Sea World? at, for heaven's sake, about ld Rivers? "Oh, theme ks," they say. "No, we n't take the kids this time." ust as the Loire is there for chateaux and Venice for its als, so California is there for theme parks. Indeed, iformia's genius is its ability turn anything into a theme k.

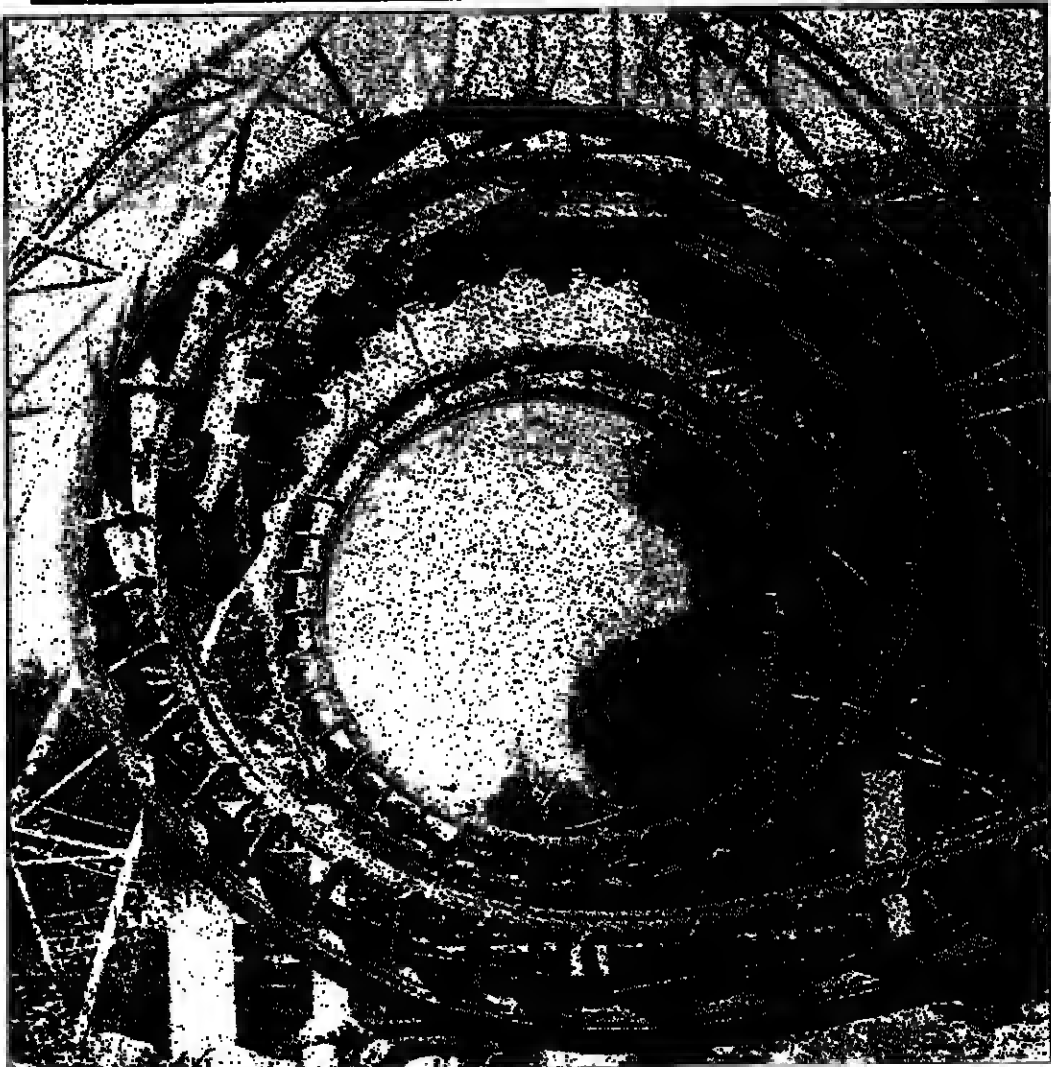
Hollywood is a filmic theme rk, the beached Queen Mary autical theme park, the gold ds to the north a prospecting me park. For Americans hin reach of the border, exico is the biggest theme rk of all. Buses leave every ur for Tijuana so that fun-ns can eat burritos and huzz nies at the begging children. Foreign tourists and nericans from out of state dom get further than Dis-land, unless it is to go for a minute drive down the fre-ay to Knott's Berry Farm. tive Californians head for



lickey Mouse extends a wel-me at Disneyland.

Theme for a perfect holiday

Just as the Loire is there for its chateaux, and Venice for its canals, so California is there for its theme parks: Disneyland, Magic Mountain, Knott's Berry Farm, Sea World — California's genius is its ability to turn anything into theme park.



The corkscrew ride at Knott's Berry Farm.

the smaller parks, where the only real thematic connection between one ride and another is the whiteness of knuckles and swiftness of heartbeat. Or they opt for marine theme parks, where dolphins and killer whales do all the cardio-vascular daring.

Trademark

This year, San Diego's Sea World, with its "world-famous" killer whale, Shamu, will be second only to Disneyland as a Californian attraction.

Shamu, like everything else in theme parks, is a trademark. Park guidebooks read like trade catalogues, and the commercialisation is rendered all

the more conspicuous because any entertainment with the least informational content goes up for sponsorship.

Magic Mountain's Aqua Theatre was, for instance, made possible only by the generosity of Wonder Bread and Hostess Snack Cakes.

Provided you can keep the children away from shops — an important part of all theme parks — these places are a relatively cheap way of filling a Californian day. For a family of four, one day will cost about £60, but that will cover food and every ride that you can face queuing for.

The key to these parks is to go at the right time and avoid the queues, which are as plen-

tiful as the shops. In high summer there is no right time: the queues start at 10 am and stretch through the day.

During the school term, try to visit the parks as early as possible, between Monday and Thursday (hookey being on the national curriculum for Fridays). The best time I had in Disneyland was on a Wednesday morning in October, when I did not have to queue for longer than about 20 minutes for any ride.

Unfortunately, after the summer season, even some of the bigger parks open only at weekends: St Peter's Square on Easter Sunday doesn't even begin to compete in terms of crowds.

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HUMOUR



Rude review

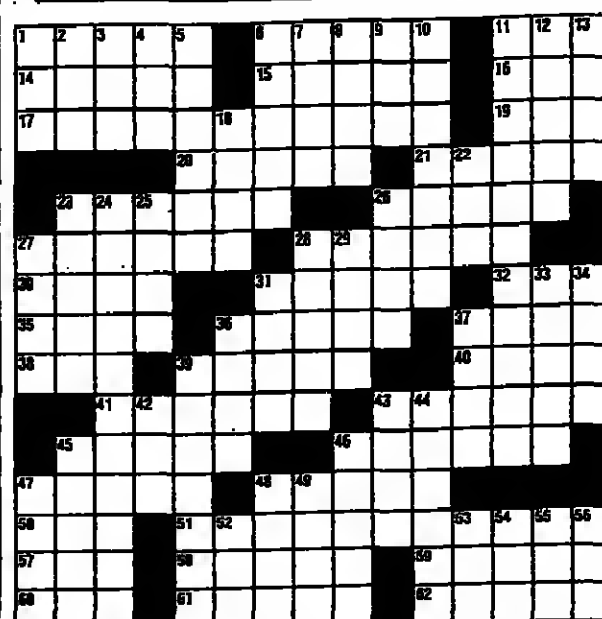
By Keith Wells

ALL this week my name's been mud. Letter's to the editor became a flood and all because I wrote a review every word of which was true about a musical that was bloody awful but the cast thinks criticism is unlawful. I must confess I drove thirty miles to see this show, which gave me piles. On Suzi's birthday, for a treat, but when the dancers with leaden feet swayed and hopped around the stage I thought with dread about my page where I would have to tell you all my thoughts about the clodhoppers ball. Then the singers missed their notes and I started making up sour quotes about how they hungered for applause even though the menopause had left them looking quite their age.

nothing more certain to enrage the ladies fair of Ahmad who sharpened all their knives for me. Alas, alack, what could I do tell sweet lies, pretend I was true that Brigadoon was the greatest thing since man or woman learned to sing? Write a review in which I said the show would surely raise the dead? Send all of you out in the night to see the show, would it be right? My review was careful not to name anyone to spare their shame I tried to be as fair as fair and funny as my wit would dare. It simply would not be quite cricket

to tell you lies to sell some tickets. Of course the cast were all quite vivid, they rang to demand we print their version of the show and cast aspersions on my name and pedigree. Oh well, my dears, I'm leaving soon, then you can stage your Brigadoon to your heart's content, and mine I'll say three thousand happy miles away. Not to end on a cheerful note, such flops are rare and the antidote is not to shoot the poor reporter who's only doing what he oughter, instead keep going with another show they've had hits before, and I know, that very soon they'll have another for my successor to go and cover.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Conductor
 - Cartain shafts
 - "You Never Can Tell" playwright: Inks
 - Loon, for one
 - Softly, in music
 - Tar
 - Plump half of a famous comedy team
 - Bea: Comb. form
 - Loophole
 - Philosopher Roger or Francis
 - Lika: a three-piece suit waister?
 - Halfhearted
 - A Gorgon
 - Sold
 - Advantage
 - Alonso of the ballet, for one
 - Hole-in-one, for example
 - Inlets
 - Mousy half of a famous comedy team
 - Associate
 - TV adjunct
 - Chihuahua
 - Singers' club
 - Word with shop or spot
 - Publish
- DOWN**
- Milk product
 - Will or Ariel
 - Certain pastries
 - Disposition
 - Work unit
 - Zany half of a famous comedy team
 - M's wife
 - Fallacy
 - Butter and maple
 - Camera shot
 - Dramatist-poet William Butler
 - The ordinate
 - Sir
 - Zero
 - Half of MXI
 - Speed up a motor
 - Sets up
 - Garden pest
 - Changan, today
 - Escapade
 - Fragment
 - Source of tofu
 - Distaff half of a famous comedy team
 - Two-legged support
 - Barker of the movies
 - Mother of Zaus
 - Quick
 - An indie language
 - Talking half of a famous comedy team
 - Entreats
 - Dog in "King Lear"
 - Talk show host Griffin
 - Stout
 - Zaragoza's river
 - Bretton or Gaal
 - Part of a baseball shoe
 - Scrutinized
 - de fete (holiday, in Le Havre)
 - Home of the Taj Mahal
 - Fabric pattern
 - Salamander
 - Froth
 - Attractive
 - Destiny
 - "New Look" dresses of 1947
 - Weather abbr.
 - Feeling
 - Highlander
 - Unrefined material
 - Stat. for Sabersnagen
 - Barker of the movies
 - Part of a Waikiki welcome
 - CIA's predecessor

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, TRY MAGIC

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A Q 8 4
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ Q 10 3
 ♣ J 10 6 5

WEST
 ♠ 2
 ♥ 9 8 4 3
 ♦ 9 6 5 2
 ♣ Q 9 8 2

EAST
 ♠ K J 10 5 3
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ 8 7 4
 ♣ 7 4 3

SOUTH
 ♠ 9 7 6
 ♥ A K Q J 10
 ♦ A K J
 ♣ A K

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
 2 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
 4 NT Pass 5 ♦ Pass
 6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

This hand comes from rubber bridge—nothing other than 150 honors could explain South's determination to rehid his five-card heart suit with his balanced hand. Not that we are enamored with North's decision to respond two spades on his four-card suit either—a value bid of three no trump is more to our liking. East's double was lead-directing, requesting his partner to lead dummy's first-bid suit. Except that his partner had mentioned the denomination first, North could have saved the day by converting to six no trump, a contract that could not be defeated from his side of the table.

West duly led the two of spades, and it was obvious to all and sundry that it was a singleton. Declarer did not fancy his chances, but he was not prepared to surrender without a fight. He decided to try to put the fact that West held only one spade to good use. He rose with dummy's ace of spades, then drew trumps. Declarer cashed the ace-king of clubs and ace of diamonds, then overtook the jack of diamonds with the table's queen. Now he led the jack of clubs and discarded the king of diamonds from hand!

West was helpless. Down to nothing but minor-suit cards, he had no option but to win the queen and then put declarer back in dummy with a minor-suit card. Declarer discarded his two losing spades on the tens of diamonds and clubs, and brought home the slam for the loss of only one club trick.

We don't know who played this hand. If nobody claims it, perhaps we'll pass it off as our own in years to come.



"You managed to find the local, then!"



"Good job you backed it each way, Sam—he's running in the opposite direction now."

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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REBECA	AGRA	AAARE
ABASH	RESIT	MILA
DUKSTER	TEMPLES	
SPRIG	SILENT	
RELEASE	TIME	
IMIT	SALADAYS	
NEF	SAMSONS	LAE
GREATNESS	CART	
NOO	LEOPARDS	
OLEARY	ESKAR	
COLLECT	TALARIA	
ENTO	AERO	ACERB
AGOG	PLAN	CALEB
NANS	PIANIE	ELYSE

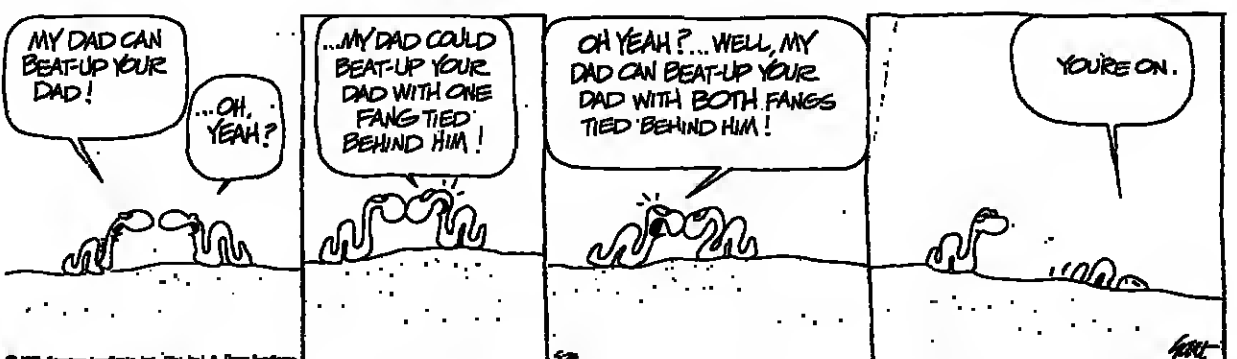
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</p> <p>You will be able to make good use of all your resources both material and spiritual. You should work hard but not neglect your personal affairs either. Avoid doing something just because others think you ought to do it. Be enterprising.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>You should have a little more faith in yourself and confidence in those close to you. You should not try to evade the consequences of your actions. Make sure you express yourself as clearly as possible. Be benevolent.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>You will feel like doing something out of the ordinary but should not go to extremes. You should be on your guard when dealing with a salesman. Make sure you have taken all the facts into account. Be more tolerant.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>You will have to use a bit of willpower if you do not want to lose the impetus. A small obstacle should not be exaggerated. Try to take pleasure in little things. Be more considerate.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>You will be better able to deal with those small practical matters that cannot be ignored. You should do your best not to make a complicated situation even worse. Make sure you do not get in anyone's way. Be moderate.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)</p> <p>You should try not to waste your efforts. Nor should you spend too much time and energy on secondary matters. You will be able to use your personal charm to good effect. Be a little more optimistic.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>You should not allow yourself to be distracted from what has to be done. And once this is done you should try to relax. Do not expect to have something for nothing or you will be disappointed. Be loyal.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>You will need all the tact and charm you can summon up. Even if you are late you should not drive carelessly or too fast. Spend a little while considering your position. Be less impolite.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>You will be able to straighten out your ideas on a rather difficult subject. Avoid having a succession of late nights. Do not come in between a friend of yours and his partner. Be more reliable.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)</p> <p>Try not to fall victim to gloomy and negative thoughts. Nor should you be unduly suspicious. There is a slight tendency to confuse what seems to be with what really is. Be less credulous.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>You have the wind in your sails, but are rather liable to sail off in the wrong direction. There is no need to lose confidence in yourself. You should keep calm when dealing with a nervous or overbearing person. Be firm.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)</p> <p>Make your first task dealing with a matter that is causing some confusion. You should not let your resentments and prejudices cloud your judgment. And try not to think ill of others. Be more moderate.</p>

The Art Buchwald Column

Fair is fair



"DADDY, can we watch baseball on TV?"

"That's a good idea. You'll learn fairness and sportsmanship from it."

"Daddy, why is the manager jumping up and down and waving his arms in front of the home plate?"

"Because he thought his man was safe when the umpire called him out. The manager is very angry, and well he might be."

"Look, Daddy, the manager is butting the umpire in the stomach with his head. Is he allowed to do that?"

"The manager was provoked, and while you're not supposed to butt an umpire, you just can't stand there when he calls one of your players out at home plate. Umpires have been getting away with murder lately, and somebody has to say to them, 'Enough is enough. If you can't call a game right, you have to expect to get hurt.'"

"Will the official change his mind after he's taken so much punishment?"

"No. And that makes the manager hopping mad. It doesn't matter what kind of case he makes, the ump will just stand there and shake his head. That is why for a baseball manager life is so unfair."

"Why do they have umpires if they've always getting baseball managers mad at them?" "It's an old tradition and no one wants to be the first to break with it. Most fans hate officials and if they had their druthers, they would keep them out of the ball park."

"Why is the umpire pointing toward the tunnel?"

"Because he's kicking the manager out of the game for ramming him in the stomach. Since umpires wear shiny black suits they think they can send managers to the showers any time they feel like it."

"The manager doesn't seem to want to go."

"Of course, he doesn't. No one likes to be sent to the locker room in the middle of a game. But do you think the ump cares? Nosirree. An official will throw you out of the game these days for nothing more than calling him an illegitimate child."

"Why doesn't the umpire allow the manager to explain his side of the story?"

"Well, if the manager told his side of the story, the umpire might have to reverse himself in front of everyone in the park. It would be a public humiliation. Also, umpires hate managers because they make more money."

"Baseball is not the only sport being ruined by officials. Look at hockey. You can't even hit someone in the stands with a hockey stick without a referee making a federal case out of it. And basketball is no better. All a coach has to do is throw a chair across a basketball court, at the opposition's cheerleader, and some stuffed-shirt referee will be all over him for unsportsmanlike conduct."

"Tennis used to be a gentlemen's game until every linesman started picking on John McEnroe for no reason at all. Now they won't even let him open his trap without fining him. That's what's wrong with sports. No one is free to do what he wants any more."

"Do you think this

baseball game will ever start again?"

"It's hard to tell. I believe the manager is demanding an apology, and that could take a little time."

"The fans look like they are on the manager's side."

"Why shouldn't they be? The umpire is lucky they haven't lynched him yet. Mark my words, the officials are trying to gain control of the game so they can appear in TV commercials. It's no wonder the managers feel the cards are stacked against them. Any umpire can send a manager to the showers, while the only defence the poor, helpless baseball managers have is to kick sand in the umpire's face."

1988, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Tours to political hot spots

Travel club offers bizarre holidays

By Andrew Gumbel

LONDON, (Reuters): Is risking detention in an African prison or witnessing a missile attack in the Gulf war your idea of fun?

A new travel club called 'holidays for maniacs' is offering to arrange package tours to do just that, hoping to attract those for whom 'getting away from it all' means more than tanning themselves on a beach.

The club, which offers tours to political hot spots in Africa, Central America and the Middle East, is the latest venture launched by Steven Pearce, a 25-year-old entrepreneur with a taste for the bizarre.

His independent record label 'some hizzare records' signs bands as likely to play industrial chainsaws as guitars, while his art gallery 'discreetly hizzare' is a focus for avant-garde painters and sculptors.

Known professionally as Stevo, he says: 'We always want to be one step ahead of people's expectations. You've got to

keep yourself occupied and you've got to keep yourself entertained.'

But isn't it unwise to send people to potential trouble spots?

'People say it's dangerous. Well, getting on the Tube (London underground) at 11.30 at night on the wrong side of town can be dangerous,' he said.

'If people want to travel to Iraq and experience a missile attack — fine. We'll send them there.'

The club, which costs 100 pounds sterling (\$185) to join, offers a 10-day tour to North Africa including a stopover in Tripoli, where, their brochure says, 'your sightseeing could include exploring the simplicity of life in Libya.'

A two-week trip round the Middle East costing 1300 sterling (\$2500) provides accommodation, travel and food during a trek through Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq.

Pearce said he realised this kind of holiday was not for the

unsophisticated traveller, and he plans to brief people before they go.

'We will use our discretion before giving someone a ticket. We're not going to send some 16-year-old who doesn't know what he's doing out there.'

Seasoned

He himself is seasoned traveller with a predilection for unusual destinations. Last Christmas and New Year he and some friends went to Zaire, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

One of his travel companions artist Andy Johnson, was held in police detention for two days in Zaire on spying charges which were later dropped.

Johnson said he would join the 'maniac' club because he found such experiences are what life is all about.

'They are fuel for my fire. I use them as source material for my work,' he said. 'I love getting a way from the kind of plastic locations most tourists go for.'

Walking with Pearce round

the five-storey building in central London which is his headquarters, you soon realise he is no ordinary product of the 'enterprise culture' fostered by Britain's Conservative government.

Chubby and boyish-looking in a black tee-shirt and mohair jacket, he manages and sometimes records fringe bands such as scraping focus off the wheel and the writes and directs an occasional series for US cable television, acts as agent for various artists and rents out a video-editing suite called 'Strictly Prohibited.'

'I try and keep busy,' he said. He started out aged 16 as a one-man disco service, plugging avant-garde bands who later recorded on his label, such as Cabaret Voltaire and Throbbing Gristle.

He became known for compiling a 'futurist chart,' which was played on radio stations, and then quickly became established in the music and art worlds.

الحسين

Dear Junior Readers,

When the holidays began, how many of you thought that you did not need to open a book until school started again? How many of you watch television for hours and hours every day and think that reading is boring?

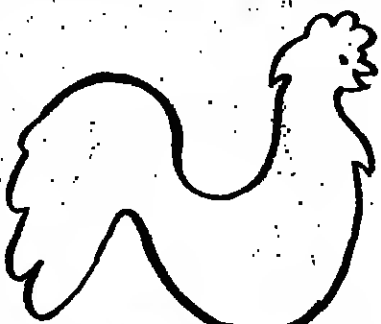
But reading really has a lot to offer: adventure stories; the lives of great men and women in history; facts about our world, knowledge of how people in other countries live; how things were invented; how to do and make things... the list goes on and on.

So, no more cries of "Mum, I'm bored." Open a book and just see what you will find!

Auntie Joanne

Word search

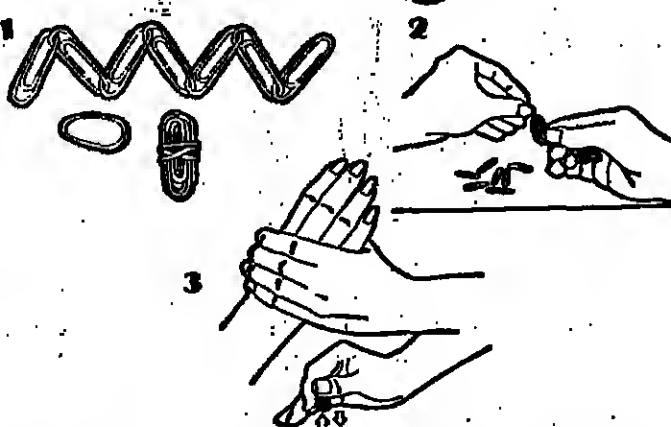
HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU MAKE FROM THE WORD -



WEATHERCOCK

Solution on Tuesday...

It's magic!



Clipped again

The illusion:

You ask someone to count some loose paperclips, then to bundle them together and wrap a rubber band around them. After the clips are placed under your friend's hand, you snap your magic fingers. When the bundle is unwrapped, the paperclips have magically linked themselves together into a chain.

The preparation:

Find fourteen paperclips and two rubber bands exactly alike. Take seven of the clips and link them into a chain, double them up (accordion pleat them) into the length of one clip, and wrap one of the rubber bands around the bundle. (1) Keep the loose seven clips and the other rubber band in a small dish or box. Conceal the linked bundle of clips in a convenient spot.

The trick:

Dump the loose clips and the rubber band in front of your friend and ask for them to be counted. While the clips are being counted and wrapped with the rubber band you secretly get the linked bundle in your right hand and cradle it in the crook of your last two fingers (2). Pick up the bundle of loose clips that he has just wrapped with the tips of the fingers of the right hand, and at the same time, take the other person's right hand with your left.

"I want you to cover the paperclips with your hand."

so they will be in the dark.

As you say, "I want you..." slightly lift his hand. That will shift his gaze to you which gives you ample opportunity to drop your linked bundle on the table and retain the loose clips in your fingers. (3) Place your friend's hand right on top of the paperclips, pause a moment, and then snap your fingers. And as your friend picks up the bundle of paperclips on the table and unwraps them, you have plenty of time to casually drop the loose clips into your lap, a pocket, or the loose clips into your lap, a pocket, or the drawer of your desk.

Isn't it wonderful how paperclips stick together?

By Natalie Savage Carlson

ONCE in another time, Jeao Labadie was the most popular storyteller in the parish. He acted out every story so that it would seem more real.

When he told about the great falls of Niagara, he made a booming noise deep in his throat and whirled his fists around each other. Then each listener could plainly hear the falls and see the white water churning and splashing as if it were about to pour down on his own head. But Jean Labadie had to stop telling his stories about the loup-garou, that demon who takes the shape of a terrible animal and pounces upon those foolish people who go out alone at night. Every time the storyteller dropped down on all fours, rolled his eyes, snorted, and clawed at the floor, his listeners ran away from him in terror.

It was only on the long winter evenings that Jean had time to tell these tales. All the rest of the year, he worked hard with his cows and his pigs and his chickens.

One day Jean Labadie noticed that his flock of chickens was getting smaller and smaller. He began to suspect that his neighbour, Andre Drouillard, was stealing them. Yet he never could catch Andre in the act.

For three nights running, Jean took his gun down from the wall and slept in the henhouse with

his chickens. But the only thing that happened was that his hens were disturbed by having their feeder roost with them, and they stopped laying well. So Jean sighed and put his gun back and climbed into his own bed again.

One afternoon when Jean went to help his neighbour mow the weeds around his barn, he found a bunch of grey chicken feathers near the fence. Now he was sure that Andre was taking his chickens, for all of his neighbour's chickens were scrawny white things.

He did not know how to broach the matter to Andre without making an enemy of him. And when one lives in the country and needs help with many tasks, it is a great mistake to make an enemy of a close neighbour. Jean studied the matter as his scythe went swish, swish through the tall weeds. At last he thought of a way out.

"Have you seen my big black dog, Andre?" he asked his neighbour.

"What big black dog?" asked Andre. "I didn't know you had a dog."

"I just got him from the Indians," said Jeao. "Someone has been stealing my chickens so I got myself a dog to protect them. He is a very fierce dog, bigger than a wolf and twice as wild."

Jean took one hand off

the scythe and pointed to the ridge behind the barn.

"There he goes now," he cried, "with his big red tongue hanging out of his mouth. See him!"

Andre looked but could see nothing.

"Surely you must see him. He runs along so fast. He lifts one paw this way and another paw that way."

As Jeao said this, he dropped the scythe and lifted first one hand in its black glove and then the other.

Andre looked at the black gloves going up and down like the paws of a big black dog. Then he looked toward the ridge. He grew

excited.

"Yes, yes," he cried. "I do see him now. He is running along the fence. He lifts one paw this way and another paw that way, just like you say."

Jean was pleased that he was such a good actor he could make Andre see a dog that didn't exist at all.

"Now that you have seen him," he said, "you will know him if you should meet. Give him a wide path and don't do anything that will make him suspicious. He is very fierce watch-dog."

Andre promised to stay a safe distance from the big black dog.

Jean Labadie was proud

of himself over the success of his trick. No more chickens disappeared. It seemed that his problem was solved.

Then one day Andre greeted him with, "I saw your big black dog in the road today. He was running along lifting one paw this way and another paw that way. I got out of his way, you can bet my life!"

Jeao Labadie was pleased and annoyed at the same time. Pleased that Andre believed so completely in the big black dog that he actually could see him. He was also annoyed because the big black dog had been running down the road when he should have been on the farm.

Another day Andre leaned over the fence.

"Good day, Jean Labadie," he said. "I saw your big black dog on the other side of the village. He was jumping over fences and hedges. Isn't it a bad thing for him to wander so far away? Someone might take him for the loup-garou."

Jeao Labadie was disgusted with his neighbour's good imagination.

"Andre," he asked, "how can my dog be on the other side of the village when he is right here at home? See him walking through the yard, lifting one paw this way and another paw that way?"

Andre looked in Jean's yard with surprise.

(To be continued on Tuesday)

Students of the Universal American School, grades 1-6, recently received recognition as the top students in their respective classes in a special ceremony at the UAS auditorium. Exam results for these students ranged from 90% to 97%.

Shown from left to right, first row: Lynn Pampose, Darryl Shehwar Hanif, Andre Romero, Jaclyn Yang, Shankar Gopal, Teddy Lim. Second row: Lars Reynolds, Mohammed Al-Qady, Sabrina Bedri, Shaba Gopal, Travis Grossman, Ramya Al Ayat.

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Across: 1 Pal, 4 Chart, 7 Away, 8 Fly, 9 Lampy, 10 Proceed, 14 Across, 15 Bow, 17 Core, 18 White, 19 Wet. Down: 1 Papa, 2 Awt, 3 Layer, 5 House, 6 Rapid, 10 Porch, 11 Onset, 12 Elbow, 13 Post, 16 Ore

Answers to Tuesday's general knowledge quiz

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Answers to Tuesday's general knowledge quiz

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

Wanted

ONE room, independent or sharing accommodation preferably with tele. for a bachelor, with an Indian family. Tele. Josef, 4741032, Percy 4740886. (AT5-42623-3)

For Rent

MISHRAF, Surra, Salwa, Dekure, CAC independent floor of a villa with private entrance, comprising 3 bedrooms, living and dining area, 2 bathrooms and a large fitted kitchen. Rent KD350. Tele. 5391720, 5382763. (AT4-42639-3)

HADIYA, 2 floors with basement, 6 bedrooms with CAC. Rent KD500 per month. Tele. Mr. Saleh, 3910178. (AT4-42629-3)

Available

DASMA, two rooms available for a couple or working girls. Tele. Sabir, 4816237 after 4.30 pm. Saeed, 2403097 off. (AT6-42677-2)

DAIYA, Block 4, Street 42, 3 rooms for bachelors or working ladies to share with a Pakistani family. Tele. Rana, 2529055. (AT6-42655-3)

FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn, Camra Restaurant, Building 4, 1st floor, Flat 6, 2 bedroom flat for one or two bachelors to share with a R.C. family. Please contact personally. (AT6-42677-2)

ABBASIYA, room available for 2 bachelors (Indians only) to share with a Goan family. Tele. Tony, 4739515, 8 am - 3 pm. (AT6-42653-3)

SALMIYA, Hamad Al Mubarak Street, near Farah Center. One big room for a couple or 3 working ladies. Bus routes 505, 30, 109, 15, 14, 19. Rent KD75 with water and electricity. Tele. Sonia, 2468307, 9 am to 1 pm. (AT4-42626-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind Firdous cinema, villa No. 142, Semi-furnished room for a family or working girls. Tele. 2404285. (AT5-42624-3)

FOR SALE

Cars

MAZDA 929, model 82, 2 doors, AC, manual, sunroof, 62,000 kms. lady driven. In excellent condition. KD825. Tele. 2633789. (AT5-42646-3)

TOYOTA Tercel stationwagon 4 wheel drive, 1985, AC, manual, white, 57,000 kms, regularly serviced. Engine and body in exceptional condition. KD1550 cash. Tele. Tenweer Hussain, 5620813. (AT5-42650-3)

MAZDA 626, 1984, automatic, golden colour with AC in excellent condition. Tele. Maha, 2440844, 2468464 office hours only. (AT6-42658-2)

MAZDA 929, model 82, 2 doors, AC, manual, sunroof, 62,000 kms. lady driven. In excellent condition. KD825. Tele. 2633789. (AT5-42646-3)

NISSAN Datsun, 1983 model, automatic with AC in good condition. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tele. Dr. Islam, 3946383, after 9 am. (AT5-42600-3)

MAZDA 929, model 82, 2 doors, AC, manual, sunroof, 62,000 kms. lady driven. In excellent condition. KD825. Tele. 2633789. (AT5-42646-3)

SUZUKI Swift, 1985, automatic, red, very low mileage. In excellent condition. KD975. Tele. 4887482. (AT5-42607-3)

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MARKET PLACE

HOUSEHOLD items, VCR, TV and personal collection of video tapes, camera, are available for sale. Tele. 5642253, 5619301, 7-10 pm. (AT6-42664-3)

TV's 18", 20" colour. Sharp video, 2 sofa sets, exercise bicycle, dishwasher, showcase, dining table 6 chairs and other items. Tele. Mushtaq, 3941249. (AT5-42633-2)

NEW BBC computer and colour monitor. Hoover washing machine, vacuum cleaner, Eagle oven, Ikea kitchen table-set and plants. Tele. 5729760. (AT4-42631-3)

HOUSEHOLD items: furniture, curtains, carpets, plants, electrical appliances, antenna, etc. in excellent condition. Tele. 5651533, 2-4 pm. (AT4-42605-3)

COMPLETE household, kitchen appliances, cabinets, king, twin and bunk beds, wardrobes, living room sets, desks, diwanisya set, toys and books. Tele. 3260233 ext. 3116. (AT4-42627-3)

SALMIYA, Baghdad Street, two bedroom attractive apartment, overlooking the sea with 150m² terrace, with many sport facilities, physical training, billiards, baby foot. Rent KD250. Tele. 4847548, 4842415. (AT6-42676-3)

ABU HALIFA, CAC flat, 3 bedrooms and saloon including household items for sale. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tele. Dr. Islam, 3946383, after 9 am. (AT5-42600-3)

HOUSEHOLD furniture, curtains, carpets, plants, videos, TV, fridge, cooking range, washing machine and other various items. Tele. Maha, 2440844, 2468464, office hours. (AT6-42658-2)

TOSHIBA 19" colour television, Panasonic stereo cassette, turntable, weight lifting set with bench, bicycles, appliances, Atari, house plants. Tele. 5317854. (AT5-42634-2)

GULF STREET, 3 bedroom flat in our excellent location. Rent KD240. Also Italian handmade living and dining, Ikea master bedroom and French bedroom. Almost new. Tele. 5729760. (AT4-42631-3)

IKEA cupboard, sofa set, meeting table, fridge, washing machine, cooking range and other household items. Contact opp. Vehicle Testing Station, Jabriya, Shabab Al-Jabriya grocery building. Tele. 5617902, 2-5 pm. (AT6-42667-3)

LUXURY waterbed with heater, side rests, water treat bottles, gas range, fridge, General washing machine. Also 2 bedroom apartment with water. Rent KD120 with telephone, near Makka/Mangaf signal. Tele. Victor, 3924194. (AT4-42613-3)

LASER, fully equipped racing dinghy, 2 sails, cover, launching trolley + galvanised road trailer. 2 windsurfers also available. Tele. John 4834709, 9 am - 1 pm. 5624406, 3-7 pm. (AT5-42635-3)

SALWA, big 2 bedroom furnished flat with tele, CAC. Rent KD200, including water available July. Furniture, National TV, appliances, carpet, curtains, KD 650. Tele. 5621839. (AT6-42688-3)

AE1 programme Canon camera 50mm lens, telephoto lenses 85mm, 300mm, power winder A. KD240. All separate possible. ABJUS divers stabl, KD80 and Dacor underwater light. Tele. 3916420, after 1 pm. (AT6-42502-1)

AIR CARGO

Around the World

Quick movement — special price

IN FAHAHEEL

Tel. 3919925

SALMIYA, opp Pakistani School, 2 bedroom flat for sale. Tele. Abdul Ghafoor, 2446740, 2446838. (AT5-42642-3)

Computers

APPLE IIe, system with monochrome monitor end stand, Arabic converter, mouse manuals plus many games, just like new. KD 225, ono. Tele. Mr. Shah, 4849722, 7 am - 1 pm, 4737643, 4-8 pm. (AT6-42668-3)

VIP IBM compatible PC/AT CPU-80286, 1 MB RAM, bi-in-gual keyboard, 360 KB FDD, 21 MB HD, high res. colour monitor, DP/130 Matrix printer. Used 5 months. KD600. Tele. Adnan 2430469, 8 am - 1 pm. (AT5-42643-3)

LOST

PASSPORT No. B-709444 of Amina Shoukat Firray, Indian along with 3 Civil IDs of Shoukat Abbas Firray, Amina Shoukat Firray and Nader Shoukat Firray. Tele. Shoukat, 2449401 ext 373/450. (AT5-42647-2)

TAN long-haired German Shepherd lost in Abu Halifa area, Reward of KD100 offered. Tele. David, 3715135. (AT4-42640-3)

SERVICES

Tuition

QUALIFIED and experienced TOEFL tutor required for private tuition. Tele. 4736488, after 6 pm. (AT6-42659-3)

FOR RENT: Part Villas, Flats, Offices. Excellent condition with 2-3-4 Bedrooms with Dining room, Saloon, Telephone, Garden, Car parking space. Servo-T's quarters with Central Airconditioning. Contact Qatari Real Estate. Tel: 2406592, 2406593.

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URDU, Arabic, English, for class 1-5 from 5.30 - 9 pm, in Juleeb Al Shiyookh. Tele. Mana, 4815077 ext 519, 8.30 am - 4 pm. (AT5-42645-3)

EXCELLENT coaching available during summer holidays at your residence upto VII Std in all subjects to improve the performance of your children by an experienced tutor. Tele. 2462275, 8 am - 1 pm. (AT4-42638-3)

ENGLISH/nursery, for 3-10 years old children in Salmiya near Pakistan School. Tele. 5616390, 10 am onwards. (AT6-42665-2)

MUSIC lessons given by a professional musician for sitar, harmonium, tabla, vocal and organ. Tele. 5335168, 5-7 pm. (AT5-42644-3)

MATHEMATICS and physics (for summer classes) 5th - 10th Std. given by a well trained and experienced teacher in Hawaii, Tunis Street. Tele. 2641496. (AT6-42637-2)

Transport

REQUIRED for a lady from Murgab to Abbasya, at 2.45 pm Tele. Irene, 2410180. (AT6-42669-2)

MAID, Sri Lankan, 10 years experience with European and Arab families, familiar with cooking, seeks full-time job with accommodation. Tele. 5515510. (AT5-42651-2)

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BASEBALL
ROUNDUPMaddux
makes Cubs
beat Pirates

NEW YORK, June 8, (AP)—Greg Maddux' luck, and pitching, are getting better all the time. Maddux became the National League's first 10-game winner as the Chicago Cubs defeated Pittsburgh 8-3 last night.

Maddux, 10-3, allowed eight runs in 7-1/3 innings to beat the Pirates for the first time in his career after five defeats. Maddux and New York's Dwight Gooden had been tied for the NL lead in victories with nine.

Maddux, who was 6-14 with a .61 earned run average last season, tied Greg Swindell of Cleveland for the Major League lead in victories.

Elsewhere, it was Philadelphia's Montreal 5; St. Louis 4; New York 1; San Diego 6; Cincinnati 1; Houston 5; Los Angeles 2; and San Francisco 5; Atlanta 0.

After the seventh inning, Cleveland's Scott Bailes had lost no-bitter and gained some experience.

The left-hander had held the Toronto Blue Jays hitless through six innings last night and as ahead 3-0. He retired the first two batters in the seventh but second baseman Julio Franco dropped George Bell's bloop.

Bailes hit Fred McGriff with a pitch and gave up an RBI single to Kelly Gruber. A two-run single by Cecil Fielder tied the game.

"I feel I've improved a lot this year," said Bailes, who ended up with a three-hitter as the Indians came back to win 5-3 on Cory Snyder's ninth-inning homer.

Last year, if that would've happened in the seventh inning, I might not have lasted the inning. At alone the game, I've settled down emotionally.

Elsewhere in the American League, it was New York 4, Boston 3; Baltimore 4, Detroit 3; Chicago 10, Minnesota 8; Kansas City 6, Oakland 0; California 4, Texas 0; and Seattle 5, Milwaukee 4.

Yankees 4, Red Sox 3
Rickey Henderson hit a run-scoring single and started a sensational double play in the eighth inning as New York beat Boston, 4-3, after a bases-clearing error by Peter Ueberroth ended the lead between Yankees manager Billy Martin and umpires.

Martin, who stayed off the field Monday night under threat of instant ejection, left the dugout four times without incident.

White Sox 10, Twins 8
Harold Baines' homer and Mike Woodard's two-run triple highlighted a seven-run seventh inning as Chicago defeated Minnesota. Baines hit the first pitch off reliever Keith Atherton, 4-3, for his seventh homer of the year.

Dan Pasqua, who had homered earlier, hit an RBI single to put Chicago ahead 5-4.

Royals 6, Athletics 0
Ted Power scattered nine hits and George Brett and Danny Tartabull homered on consecutive pitches as Kansas City shut out Oakland for the second consecutive game.

Angels 1, Rangers 0
Chuck Finley and Bryan Harvey combined on a five-hitter and Brian Downing homered in the sixth inning as California shut out Texas. Finley, 4-7, allowed five hits, struck out seven and walked none before being relieved by Harvey with two outs in the top of the ninth and runners on first and third.

Asked if he didn't think there would be a knockout, Ali said: "It will go to a decision."

Small: seven for 15
pionship games so far. Newport beat his previous personal best of six for 48 against Hampshire two years ago after both Worcestershire and Middlesex, leaders at the start of the current round of games, each forfeited an innings in their rain-hit match.

Middlesex, left to make 334 to win, were undermined by Newport's opening burst of four for seven. Keith Brown and Jamie Sykes resisted with a stand of exactly 50 before Newport returned to complete the destruction.

Middlesex were all out for 124, and are now second in the standings with 94 points to Worcestershire's 103.

Contention
Fellow paceman Phil Newport shared the spotlight also with the best figures of his career, eight for 52 as Worcestershire pulled off a 209-run victory over Middlesex at Lord's to go to the top of the table.

Small, whose injury ruled him out of contention for a place in the first Test against West Indies which ended at Trent Bridge yesterday, exploited unreliable bounce by hitting the stumps three times and having two lbw successes.

He beat his previous best of seven for 42 for South Australia against New South Wales in 1985-86.

Notts, needing 206 to win, were dismissed in 87 minutes, only six days after making the season's previous lowest of 65 against Kent at Dartford. It was Notts' sixth defeat in eight cham-

DANTLEY LEADS SCORING WITH 34 POINTS

Pistons stun Lakers in NBA finals

LOS ANGELES, June 8, (Reuters)—The underdog Detroit Pistons out-shot and out-hustled the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers last night to win the opening game of the best-of-seven National Basketball Association finals 105-93.

The Pistons, making their first appearance in the finals since 1956 when they were based in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, jumped out to a quick 8-0 lead in the first two minutes of the game.

The Lakers were able to close the gap midway through the period and trailed by only one point, 22-21, at the end of the first quarter.

Outscored
Detroit blew the game open in the second quarter, however, when they outscored the five-time NBA champions 35-19.

The Pistons had already built up an 11-point lead as the final seconds of the first half ticked off.

With five seconds left in the half, Detroit centre Bill Laimbeer launched a three off an inbound pass from Los Angeles centre Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and hit another three pointer at the buzzer to open up a 17-point, 37-40 lead at half. It was the Lakers' worst half-time deficit of the season.

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Pistons' Dennis Rodman (No. 10) pulls a rebound away from Lakers' Abdul-Jabbar and right, Pistons' Adrian Dantley drives past Lakers' Green. (Reuters wirephoto)

Detroit's veteran forward Adrian Dantley terrorised A.C. Green all night, scoring almost at will. He missed only two of 16

shots from the floor and led all scorers with 34 points, 22 in the second half.

"We're treating each game as if it's game seven," Dantley said after the victory.

This was only the second playoff loss for the Lakers at

home this year and the fans at the Los Angeles Forum, used to watching their team run away from the competition, sat in stunned silence for most of the game.

The Pistons, who have played tremendous defence throughout the playoffs, continued to do so against the usually potent Los Angeles attack as they completely stifled the Lakers' vaunted fast-break.

The Lakers, trying to become the first team since 1969 to repeat as champions, now face a must-win situation in the second game here tomorrow or they head to Detroit for games three through five down 0-2.

"Our backs are against the wall in game two. That game is going to be B-I-G," said Lakers star Earvin "Magic" Johnson, spelling out the last word.

Detroit's depth was a factor yesterday as their second string players, led by Vinnie Johnson's 16 points, outscored their Los Angeles counterparts 32-24.

Los Angeles rallied in the third quarter, cutting the deficit to eight at 65-57 behind the leadership of "Magic" Johnson, who led the Lakers with 28 points.

Driving
But Detroit held off the charge, as Dantley repeatedly burned Green with driving layups and the Pistons built their lead back to 80-68 after three quarters.

Los Angeles made one last surge in the closing minutes and got as close as seven points with just over a minute left, but the Pistons held them off to earn the respect of both the Lakers and the Los Angeles fans.

Japanese officials suspended
TOKYO, June 8, (Reuters)—Two Japanese boxing officials were suspended for a month today following a controversial draw in last Sunday's world strawweight title match, the Japan Boxing Commission (JBC) said.

The draw in Osaka enabled World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Hiroki Ioka of Japan to retain his title against Thai challenger Napa Katwanchai.

Requesting
The JBC also said they had sent a telegram to the World Boxing Council (WBC) requesting a rematch against Napa as Ioka's next defence.

That would meet requests from Napa's side in the wake of the controversy that he be allowed an early rematch. No venue for the possible fight was mentioned in the telegram.

JBC secretary-general Shigeru Kojima said Japanese official timekeepers Hidenobu Okane and Masashi Hinomaru were suspended following investigations that showed the final round was shorter than three minutes.

Results
At Taunton: Northamptonshire beat Somerset by seven wickets. Somerset 215 in 63.4 overs and 178. Northamptonshire 260 in 93 overs and 134 for three (W. Larkins 81 not out). Northamptonshire 23 points, Somerset six.

At Lord's: Worcestershire beat Middlesex by 209 runs. Worcestershire 333 for eight declared in 110 overs and second innings forfeited. Middlesex first innings forfeited and 124 (P. Newport eight for 52). Worcestershire 19 points, Middlesex three.

At Edgbaston: Warwickshire beat Nottinghamshire by 161 runs. Warwickshire 300 for eight declared in 98.2 overs and 111 for four declared. Nottinghamshire 206 for six declared in 90 overs (D. Randall 69 not out) and 44 (G. Small seven for 15). Warwickshire 22 points, Nottinghamshire five.

At Harrogate: match drawn. Yorkshire 142 in 58.1 overs and 310 for six declared (J. Love 93 not out, A. Metcalfe 87, M. Moxon 44). Surrey 342 for four declared in 101 overs. Surrey eight points, Yorkshire one.

At Cardiff: Kent beat Glamorgan by four wickets. Glamorgan 369 for seven declared in 142 overs and 152 for seven declared (C. Medson 48). Kent 252 for two declared in 82.4 overs and 271 for six (C. Tavaré 129 not out, C. Cowdrey 49). Kent 21 points, Glamorgan one.

At Liverpool: Lancashire beat Hampshire by four wickets. Hampshire 320 for six declared in 124 overs and 186 for five declared (C. Smith 124 not out). Lancashire 251 for five declared in 87.1 overs and 259 for six (M. Watkinson 72 not out, T. Jersey 60). Lancashire 21 points, Hampshire four.

At Horsham: Derbyshire beat Sussex by one wicket. Sussex 272 in 103.2 overs and 155 (P. Parker 46, A. Pigott 45 not out, O. Mortensen four for 57). Derbyshire 250 in 80 overs and 170 for nine (J. Morris 71). Derbyshire 22 points, Sussex seven.

Standings
English County Championship cricket table after yesterday's matches (tabulate under played, won, lost, drawn, batting bonus points, bowling bonus points, total points):

Worcestershire 7 4 1 2 17 22 103
Middlesex 6 4 1 1 13 17 94
Northants 7 3 1 3 14 23 85
Kent 6 3 0 14 17 79
Warwickshire 5 3 1 1 11 18 77
Somerset 7 2 2 15 22 70
Derbyshire 6 2 2 12 22 66
Lancashire 6 2 1 13 19 64
Sussex 6 2 2 11 17 60
Essex 5 2 1 14 13 59
Derbyshire 6 2 0 4 13 13 58
Nottinghamshire 8 1 6 1 11 30 57
Gloucestershire 5 1 2 10 12 54
Sussex 6 1 3 2 11 21 48
Hampshire 6 1 2 3 6 21 43
Yorkshire 6 0 3 3 7 18 25
Glamorgan 6 0 2 4 11 12 23



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Sussex 6 2 2 11 17 60
Essex 5 2 1 14 13 59
Derbyshire 6 2 0 4 13 13 58
Nottinghamshire 8 1 6 1 11 30 57
Gloucestershire 5 1 2 10 12 54
Sussex 6 1 3 2 11 21 48
Hampshire 6 1 2 3 6 21 43
Yorkshire 6 0 3 3 7 18 25
Glamorgan 6 0 2 4 11 12 23



The victorious W.G.W. squad.

W.G.W. defeat Ichchra

W.G.W., a newly organised cricket club, started their season with a 56-run victory over Ichchra Cricket Club in an Amer Trophy match earlier this week.

W.G.W. (Wah-g-Wah), batting first, scored 150 runs in their 20 allotted overs. Ajmal was the top scorer with 28 while Anjum, Amjad and Ali hit 20, 18 and 17 respectively.

For Ichchra, Shehzad took five wickets for 25 while Khozaina and Azam bagged two wickets each.

In reply, Ichchra were all out for 94. Ali was the main wicket-taker with four scalps.

Last week a meeting was held to elect the office bearers of the club. Anjum Bashir was named captain and Ali his deputy. Seth M. Aslam is the chairman of the club. Akram was named secretary and M. Fiaz got the post of treasurer.

Jordan in All-NBA team
NEW YORK, June 8, (AP)—Chicago's Michael Jordan, the NBA leader in scoring and steals, was a unanimous choice to the all-League team announced today, while Boston's Larry Bird made the squad for the ninth consecutive year.

Joining Jordan, a guard, and Bird, a forward, on the All-National Basketball Association first team were forward Charles Barkley of Philadelphia, centre Akeem Olajuwon of Houston

and guard Magic Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Chosen to the second team were forwards Karl Malone of Utah and Dominique Wilkins of Atlanta, centre Patrick Ewing of New York, and guards Clyde Drexler of Portland and John Stockton of Utah.

The team was selected by three voters from each League city and 11 members of the national media.

NEW SUPERLIGHTS FROM ROTHMANS
THE LIGHT CIGARETTE YOU'LL ENJOY

BY SPECIAL
Supert

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Milk race

SHEFFIELD, England, June 8. (AP): Graeme Miller of New Zealand scored his second consecutive stage victory, but Ivan Ivanov of the Soviet Union maintained his overall lead in cycling's Milk race yesterday.

French team

FRANSCHHOEK, South Africa, June 8. (Reuters): A French rugby team, whose visit to South Africa has been condemned in Paris, won the first match of its tour 27-18 (half-time 18-12) against a local invitation side last night.

Baseball boss

NEW YORK, June 8. (Reuters): Peter Ueberroth said yesterday that he will step down as commissioner of Major League baseball at the completion of his initial five-year term at the end of 1989.

National study

NEW YORK, June 8. (AP): Most American parents believe sports are as important for their daughters as their sons, according to a national study released yesterday. Eighty-seven percent of the parents surveyed said they agreed that "sports are equally important for boys and girls."

French sailors

PLYMOUTH, England, June 8. (AP): French sailors, led by Olivier Moussy, continued to dominate the Carlsberg single-handed transatlantic yacht race yesterday, although one leading contender from France had to retire.

Woosnam hurt

OSWESTRY, England, June 8. (Reuters): Ian Woosnam, the world's best golfer in 1987, has suffered a wrist injury at his home here and will probably miss next week's US Open at Brookline, Massachusetts.

Bologna tennis

BOLOGNA, Italy, June 8. (Reuters): Unforced errors cost Argentine veteran Guillermo Vilas a place in the second round of the Bologna international tennis tournament when he lost 6-2 1-6 7-6 to Ricky Osterhurn of West Germany yesterday.

Yugoslav coach

BELGRADE, June 8. (Reuters): Mima Jausovec, Yugoslavia's most successful female tennis player, has been appointed national women's team coach, replacing Jelena Genec.

IOC chief

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, June 8. (AP): Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said yesterday he is "not very optimistic" about North Korea's participation in the Seoul Olympics and renewed an offer for a last-minute visit to mediate over its co-hosting demand.

Cup qualifiers

MONTEVIDEO, June 8. (Reuters): Oscar Washington Tabarez will coach South American champions Uruguay in their World Cup qualifying matches next year, the Uruguayan Football Association said yesterday.

French striker

BORDEAUX, France, June 8. (UPI): French international striker Jose Tourne was driving without a licence when he allegedly caused an accident that injured three people over the weekend, officials said yesterday.

Dunlop banned

LONDON, June 8. (UPI): Five times Formula One motorcycle world champion Joe Dunlop yesterday was banned from driving on the Isle of Man for 18 months after admitting a drunk driving charge.

Steffi Graf

LONDON, June 8. (UPI): West German Steffi Graf, who has just retained her French Open title, yesterday was given a wild card entry to the mixed doubles event at the Wimbledon tennis championships, June 20 to July 3, with her Czechoslovak partner Pavel Slozil.

Argentina captain

BUENOS AIRES, June 8. (Reuters): Flanker Jorge Allen will captain the Argentine Rugby Union team in the two-Test series against France this month, the Argentine rugby union said.

Games qualifier

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, June 8. (AP): Zaire came from behind to beat France 52-50 in a Group B match of the 18-nation Olympics women's basketball qualifying round here yesterday. Zaire led 31-29 at half-time.

STAGE SET FOR EUROPEAN SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

Gullit gets chance to take Maradona's crown

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, June 8. (Reuters): Ruud Gullit, the dreadlocked Dutchman who has inspired a renaissance of the Netherlands' imaginative and free-flowing soccer, will be acclaimed the world's top player if he leads them to victory in the European Championship finals.

Four years after Michel Platini took France to triumph, Gullit has taken over his mantle as Europe's outstanding player and ousted Argentine Diego Maradona as the most-feted foreigner in the tough Italian League.

Success in the highly-competitive and evenly-matched eight-nation tournament which begins here on Friday would lift him above Maradona as the world's leading talent and establish the Netherlands once again as the most tactically-innovative team of their generation.

Although every team has equal justification in claiming they will win the Henri Delaunay trophy, it is the Dutch who have captured the imagination with the dazzling improvisation of their play.

In European Player of the Year Gullit, a goalscoring forward with the all-round skills and strength to fill any position, Libero Ronald Koeman and striker John Bosman and Marco van Basten, the Dutch have players to rank alongside their stars of the 1970's when they reached the World Cup final twice without reward.

That fine Dutch team, who gave birth to the term 'total football', were beaten in the 1974 World Cup final by West Germany, whose captain that day,



Gullit: Europe's top player

Franz Beckenbauer, now hopes to mastermind another triumph on home soil, his nation's third in this tournament.

But for the Dutch, and their army of fans whose massive presence has contributed to fears for the safety of the tournament itself, nothing would be sweeter than a revenge victory over the Germans in the final in Munich on June 25.

The hosts, installed as favourites, open their campaign on Friday when they meet Italy in Dusseldorf in a match which

recalls the 1982 World Cup final in Madrid.

Both teams have been rebuilt by new management since then — Italy under Azzeglio Vicini and West Germany under Beckenbauer, who guided them to the 1986 World Cup final in Mexico.

The Italians, with the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy in mind, have concentrated on creating a young team and have discovered a formidable striker in Gianluca Vialli, who has added a cutting edge to their traditionally-hard defence.



Lineker: England depend on him

West Germany, by contrast, appear to have lost their way on the run-in to the finals and Beckenbauer knows anything less than a semifinal place could cost him his job.

Denmark and Spain, the other teams in Group One, are old rivals and both are capable of producing upsets.

Built round a nucleus of hardened veterans from their 1986 World Cup campaigns, they have established patterns of play, experienced coaches in West German Sepp Piontek and

Miguel Munoz respectively and all the necessary mental toughness, but may lack punch in attack.

Their meeting in Hanover on Saturday — a re-run of their semifinal clash in 1984 and dramatic World Cup encounter in Mexico two years ago — could be decisive.

After two defeats by Spain, the Danes are determined to change their fortunes. An opening victory could be enough to galvanise them into reaching the last four again.

Netherlands against England in Dusseldorf on June 15 overshadowed all else because of the threat of hooliganism.

But the elegant Dutch are more likely to be matched on the pitch in Group Two by the Soviet Union, who eliminated France in the qualifiers, than England.

Like the Danes, and to some extent the English, the European finals offer the Soviet team a last chance to fulfil the promise they first revealed in Mexico two years ago.

With players of the quality of Vassily Rats, Alexander Zavarov and Igor Belanov, they could reach the last four and even possibly their fourth final.

Ireland, making their first appearance, complete the group. They should not be dismissed lightly following a run of 10 games without defeat under English coach Jack Charlton.

A World Cup-winning player in 1966, Charlton has instilled unprecedented discipline and urgency into the skilful Irish, but their lack of experience is likely to be exposed.

Semifinals

That being so, the Netherlands are likely to be joined in the semifinals by the winners of the final group game between Mexico World Cup quarterfinalists England and the Soviet Union.

England, so dependent upon the goalscoring skills of Gary Lineker, on target 26 times in 32 internationals, and fellow-striker Peter Beardsley, were the highest-scoring team in the qualifiers.

But they will miss injured central defender Terry Butcher and may also lack the tactical and technical subtlety to outwit the Soviet Union.



Schuster joins Real in \$6m deal

MADRID, June 8. (Reuters): West German midfielder Bernd Schuster has joined Spanish League champions Real Madrid for three years in a \$6 million deal.

Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza announced the move yesterday, confirming months of rumour that Schuster would join Real after saying a year ago he would not renew his contract with arch-rivals Barcelona.

"It's very important for my soccer career signing for Real Madrid. It's a very calm club that knows what it's doing and that gives me a lot of confidence," Schuster said.

Clashes

Schuster, 28, spent the last eight years with Barcelona where he had several problems, clashing with coaches, players and club president Jose Luis Nunez.

During the European Cup final against Romania's Steaua Bucharest in Seville two years ago, he stormed home from the stadium after being substituted by Barcelona's coach at that time, Terry Venables. Barcelona lost the match on penalties.

Nunez kept him on the bench throughout the 1986-87 season and Schuster refused to renew his contract.

The West German would not comment on investigations into his alleged tax evasion. Schuster, along with Nunez, was charged two weeks ago by a judge who claimed he failed to pay 6.6 million pesetas (\$60,000) in tax between 1983 and 1986.

Mayweather hurt in car accident

LAS VEGAS, June 8. (Reuters): Roger Mayweather, who narrowly retained his World Boxing Council super lightweight title on Monday night, escaped serious injury yesterday when the car he was driving collided with another car, police said.

Mayweather was taken to sunrise hospital here where a spokeswoman said he was being treated for cuts and bruises "but did not seem to be seriously injured."

It was not immediately clear whether anyone else was injured in the accident or whether any charges would be brought against the 29-year-old fighter or the other driver.

Kenyan squad

NAIROBI, June 8. (Reuters): World champions Billy Konchella, Paul Kipkoech and Douglas Wakihuri head a strong Kenyan athletics team for the Seoul Olympics.

Italians confident before opener

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, June 8. (Reuters): Italy, who warmed up for the European Soccer Championship finals by beating a local youth team 13-0, are confident and calm before Friday's opening match against host nation West Germany.

"I consider the West German team to be one of the most compact and well-balanced in the championship — but we have no complexes about them," Italian coach Azzeglio Vicini said today.

"We have no reason to undervalue our opponents but nor do we fear them," said Vicini,

whose young team also faces the experienced Spanish and Danish squads in the preliminary group matches.

"We hope others fear and respect us."

Vicini used all 20 players in his squad for last night's tune-up against a youth side from West German club Borussia Moenchengladbach. Star striker Gianluca Vialli scored three goals in the morale-boosting win.

Vialli and fellow-striker Alessandro Altobelli are among the players who carry a caution from the qualifying competition into the finals. Another yellow card

and they will be suspended for one match.

"It's a nuisance, but we shouldn't make too much of it," said Vicini, who has instructed all his players to behave themselves and keep their tempers under control.

Atmosphere

The 55-year-old coach, facing his first major championship in charge of the Italian national team, exuded quiet confidence as he fielded reporters' questions.

"On Friday, the team will be at its maximum — or at least it will be in good condition," he said.

"There are good reasons for us

to be confident, but without being presumptuous."

The president of the Italian Soccer Federation, Antonio Matarrese, described the atmosphere in the Italian camp as serene. "There are no tensions," he insisted.

Vicini reported no nagging injuries among his squad before the opening match. But even if Italy does not do well in the championship, he will not be too disappointed — his main aim is to give his players experience and confidence with an eye on the 1990 World Cup finals which Italy will host.

Bin Sulayem set for hat-trick

THE Jordan International Rally, round three in the Middle East Rally Championship, is shaping up to be a right royal battle, not only for placings in this spectacular three-day event, but also for the Championship crown.

Dubai's Mohammed Bin Sulayem, partnered by Irishman Ronan Morgan in the Toyota Team Middle East Marlboro/BP sponsored Toyota Celica Turbo will be second off the ramp on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 15, to start the action which could well see the pair winning their third event in a row this season, and in doing so, seal this year's Middle East Championship.

After successes this season in Qatar and Kuwait, the team is

now in Jordan, at the Amman Intercontinental Hotel, readying itself for this gruelling event which will see tarmac special stages in use this year.

Pirelli, the Toyota team's co-sponsor, will take the opportunity of these tarmac stages to test some new compound tyres in preparation for next season's change of international regulations, when the powerful cars will be built to the Group A specifications.

Dropping

Bin Sulayem, arriving in Amman on Royal Jordanian Airlines direct from Dubai where he took a short breather after dropping out of the Acropolis rally in Greece last week, said, "both Ronan and I are looking forward to the Jordan event, but

first we have got the important task of practice to complete. The car is as strong as ever, and with a great team behind us, I see no reason why we can't repeat last year's win. The challenge from Audi is strong with the three cars in the first four, but the Toyota has proven itself time and time again. Needless to say we'll be going all-out for another win."

The Jordan Rally will be the last opportunity for rally fans in the area to see the mighty Group B Toyota in serious battle. However, a Toyota Celica 200 4WD Group A car is entered by the German crew of Mrazek/Reschke and this car should provide a taste of things to come next year when Toyota Team Middle East's challenge is mounted in Group A.

England score easy victory

WOOLONGONG, Australia, June 8. (Reuters): England turned in an impressive second half performance today to defeat New South Wales 25-9 and boost confidence ahead of Sunday's second Test against Australia.

The dominant England pack set up a feast of second phase ball for the backline in which centre Will Carling, playing for the first time on the tour, had an exceptional game.

Forwards Nigel Redman, Gary Roes and Andrew Robinson scored tries while fullback Ray Adamson kicked three penalties and two conversions.

Both sides started slowly, squandering possession with bad handling. England flyhalf Stuart Barnes looked content to kick at every opportunity, pinning New South Wales in their own half.

Becker delighted to be back on grass



Connors playing to the spectators during his match with Purcell. (Reuters wirephoto)

LONDON, June 8. (Reuters): Boris Becker trod delightedly on a grass court for the first time in almost a year yesterday when he began plotting his campaign for a third Wimbledon title.

The West German tamed Australian Charlton Eagle 6-1 6-3 in the first round of the London Grasscourt Championships at Queen's Club, the traditional warm-up for Wimbledon which begins on June 20.

"It's a good feeling to be back on the surface where you enjoyed your greatest moments, your greatest victories," said Becker, twice winner at Queen's and Wimbledon champion in 1985 and 1986.

Unknown

Becker's last match on grass was in the second round at Wimbledon last June when his two-year reign ended stunningly against unseeded Australian Peter Doohan on number one court.

For Doohan, beaten by unknown Canadian Chris Fridman here on Monday, little has gone right since, a fact he acknowledged when the two men met at Queen's yesterday.

"We've talked a number of times since that day last year,"

said Becker after his efficient victory against Eagle. "Even now, Peter is still saying, 'nobody can believe it yet'."

Becker has just come off the European claycourt circuit where he was beaten in the first round at Monte Carlo and Rome but reached the fourth round of the French Open last week before losing to eventual runner-up Henri Leconte.

"All the Grand Slams are important, but for me Wimbledon is the biggest," added Becker. "It started when I was 17 and it always excites me like no other."

"For the past few weeks on clay everyone has been telling me how to play... now it's time for me to give the lessons. At Wimbledon I have no excuses."

Reflecting on his defeat against Doohan which began his slight but important slide from second to his current world ranking of seventh, Becker went on: "My Wimbledon run had to end, it was only a question of time."

"Even Ivan Lendl is not invincible on clay as we saw in Paris. It was better that I lose at Wimbledon last year when I was 19 than after I'd won four successive championships."

Becker is seeded to meet reigning Wimbledon champion Pat Cash in the semifinals, while Jimmy Connors and Stefan Edberg are scheduled to meet in the top half of the draw.

Connors marked his return to England with an entertaining 6-3 6-4 victory over fellow-American Mel Purcell, treating the crowd to the usual mixture of ribald humour.

Though some of his "witticisms" bordered on the obscene, Connors raised a genuine laugh when he disputed one line call in rich upper-class English tones.

"I say, that was jolly questionable."

Passed

The world number five has been sidelined for the past seven weeks with an old foot injury and he passed the time "messing about in boats."

"Not sailing, no," he said. "I boat like I play tennis. It was an 100 kph offshore powerboat."

Top seed Edberg struggled with his game on the lush grass against Australian qualifier Shane Barr, winning 6-4 3-6 6-4.

"I may not have played well, but I agree with Boris that it's wonderful to be back on grass," said the Swede.

Marshall to rest before second Test

NOTTINGHAM, England, June 8. (Reuters): West Indies main strike bowler Malcolm Marshall is to rest in an effort to recover from injury before the second cricket Test against England starting at Lord's on June 16.

Marshall could bowl only five overs before leaving the field for treatment to a side injury on the fifth and final day of the first Test yesterday. The Barbadian took six for 69 and scored 72 in the first innings of the drawn match.

West Indies captain Viv Richards said: "He is suffering from soreness in his ribs. He was hit originally while batting against Wasim Akram in the Pakistan series earlier this year."

Affected

"Malcolm was feeling it a little bit in the first innings and we knew this morning that he would not be able to go flat out."

"We wanted to bowl him in short spells and it was very disheartening for us not to be able to use him fully today. But it's a big 'if' that it would have affected the outcome."

"I don't think it is very serious. He won't play against Lancashire in our next match and he just needs some rest. A couple of days off should do the trick."



Marshall: Injured

Graham Gooch scored 146 as England forced a draw, and Richards praised the opener's batting. "It was a wonderful innings, very responsible and very cultured," he said.

Richards added: "We lost too much time in this Test to the weather but I have felt encouraged by coming here after losing the limited overs series 3-0 and getting England 203 behind on first innings. I think it is a plus for us."

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